UN Chronicle

December 1992
Volume XXIX, Number 4

International Space Year

47th Assembly Opens

Department of Public Information
United Nations

'Mission to Planet Earth'

In designating 1992 as International Space Year, the United Nations, as well as space agencies and organizations around the world, have embarked upon a global "Mission to Planet Earth"—the theme for the Year—which aims to improve understanding of our "Blue Planet". Dozens of national and international programmes have been undertaken during the Year, comprising a major effort worldwide to monitor the Earth from outer space and assess the state of its global environment.

Our cover features a dramatic photograph of the launching on Thursday, 22 October 1992 of space shuttle Columbia by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The 122-foot-long spaceship roared off Launch Pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida, at 1:09:39 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Its six-person crew included five Americans, one a woman, and a Canadian. Their main task: to deploy the Laser Geodynamic Satellite II (LAGEOS-2), built by the Italian Space Agency. The tiny, two-foot satellite will reflect laser beams as an aid to studying movements of the Earth's crust to assist in earthquake predictions and disaster preparedness. Thus, another chapter in the International Space Year's special "Mission" has been written.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: Courtesy of NASA

Published quarterly in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
Department of Public Information
New York

Under-Secretary-General for Public Information: Eugeniusz Wyzner.
Editor-in-Chief: Betty Flynn-Connors.
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Ghulam Ahmed Nanji.
Writers: Nancy Seufert-Barr, Sergei Vinogradov.
Editorial Assistants: Annette Ifill, Herminia Roque, Geraldine Y. Velandria, Teresita Q. Victoria.
Interns: Rudy Brueggemann, Tamara Conniff.
Production staff: Laura Frischeisen, Patrice Lerochereuil, Arnaldo Ponce.
BookWatch: Harold Fruchtbaum.
French edition: Marc Chalamet.
Cover design by Graphic Presentation Unit (OCS).

The *UN Chronicle* (USPS 647-380) is published quarterly by the United Nations Department of Public Information in New York. Not an official record. All material may be freely reprinted but acknowledgement is requested. A copy of the publication containing reprinted material should be sent to *UN Chronicle*, United Nations, Room DC1-530, New York 10017. All editorial correspondence should be forwarded to the same address.

Subscriptions should be sent to United Nations Publications, Room DC2-0853, New York 10017. The subscription rate for academic and non-profit organizations and individuals is $20 for one year. For commercial institutions, the rate is $28 annually. Postmaster, send address changes to United Nations Publications, United Nations, Room DC2-0853, New York 10017. Second class postage paid at New York and additional mailing offices.

UN CHRONICLE

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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READEX
FICHE

Edward Reed

New York City Mayor Dinkins presents the Secretary-General with a proclamation at Gracie Mansion.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali Day

The right man at the right time . . .

Proudly displaying a poster-sized proclamation, New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins declared 14 September 1992 as Boutros Boutros-Ghali Day, an unprecedented one-time holiday in honour of the sixth UN Secretary-General. "Like all New Yorkers, I am terribly proud that the world's greatest hope for peace makes its home in our city", said Mayor Dinkins, after making the presentation to Mr. Boutros-Ghali during a reception at Gracie Mansion to mark the occasion.

"Your presence lends us great prestige—your everyday activities are a cornerstone of our economy—and you enrich our cultural life immeasurably", he said, adding that the City was hard at work on plans to help celebrate in 1995 the fiftieth anniversary of the UN.

Mr. Dinkins, the first African-American Mayor of New York City, added that Mr. Boutros-Ghali, the first Secretary-General from the African continent, was "the ideal man to bridge the gap between the developed and less developed Member countries of the United Nations. He is the right man at the right time for this job."

The Secretary-General responded: "It is most fitting that United Nations Headquarters should stand at the edge of the sea in

New York City, a city which is, as you have so often remarked, Mr. Mayor, a glorious mosaic whose people have come from almost all of the world's countries."

On the eve of the opening of the forty-seventh General Assembly, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he looked forward to cooperating with "a great city and its Mayor" in the coming months and years, when the UN and New York both "will face enormous challenges from change and unfolding events". ■

Excerpts from statements by Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali made between 1 July and 30 September 1992.

The real heroes . . .

Today as we think about peace, our thoughts naturally go to the brave men and women of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in Yugoslavia, in Somalia, in Cambodia, and in other strife-ridden parts of the world, who are daily risking their lives to bring some measure of relief to these troubled areas. They are the real heroes of our time, the silent, but I hope not unsung, warriors in the struggle for peace.

—On the occasion of the International Day of Peace, New York, 15 September

Looking the world in the face . . .

Let us look the world in the face. The new developments we have continually been witnessing over the years have a direct impact on our lives. The trust placed in us by the community of nations makes exacting demands on us: to betray that trust would be to deliver the world over to terrible dangers which nothing would any more be capable of averting.

—On the occasion of United Nations Staff Day, New York, 11 September

Going our way . . .

What do peoples and nations want? What are their aspirations? When someone tells me that we do not know where we are going, I am always tempted to reply that mankind has never known where it was going. . . . But such uncertainty does not bar us from distinguishing the present and the future or from anticipating the changes to come, and accommodating them in such a way that they provide the best response to our imperatives of reason and justice.

—On receiving the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from the Academy of Sciences, Moscow, 7 September

The broken barrier . . .

Mankind's profound desire to establish a legal and political framework which would ensure peace, stability and respect for human rights resulted in the founding of the United Nations. Your deliberations are taking place at a time of great trial for Europe. The immense ideological barrier that for decades gave rise to distrust and hostility has broken down. Yet the improvement in relations between East and West has been accompanied by a fierce resurgence of nationalism and contentious rivalries, erupting in ethnic, religious, cultural or linguistic strife which threatens the cohesion of States. This development carries its own dangerous dynamics and gives a new dimension of insecurity to the European continent.

—In a message to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe Summit, Helsinki, 9 July

Ships that pass . . .

Perhaps the key feature of today's world—the post-cold-war world—is the way in which everything is intertwined and interlinked to the point where our world has now come to resemble communicating vessels. Hence, whatever happens in one region necessarily affects the other regions. The description of the planet earth as a "universal village" is correct. . . . The village is simultaneously characterized by integration, cooperation and solidarity. It is this which makes us all strive to realize the dream and look forward to the time when the description of "the village" can be fully applied to the world at large.

—In a message to the Conference of the International Society of Travel Agents, Cairo, 20 September

Affirming unity . . .

The wisdom of faith insists that all that mankind is and does is fundamentally and inseparably joined. All religions and all pathways of the spirit proclaim the recognition and acceptance of this unity. In its own sphere, the United Nations embodies and affirms this truth. I have just been reminded of this by the opening of the first General Assembly of my time as Secretary-General. This reunion of the representatives of virtually all the human race, at one time in one place, to once again pursue the great common vision of our Charter, is a strong reminder of our oneness.

—At the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, 27 September, designated as United Nations Sunday

UNOSOM grows to 4,000 strong

100-day relief plan for Somalia launched

Famine threatens millions with starvation

Maya Vidon

Somali relief workers aid a dying man in the Red Crescent-run camp at Baidoa in southwestern Somalia.

With famine threatening an estimated 4.5 million people with imminent death from starvation, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson announced on 14 September that UN agencies would undertake a comprehensive 100-day plan to accelerate relief efforts in Somalia, including immediate and massive infusions of food and seeds, as well as provision of shelter materials, clean water supplies, basic health services and other efforts to stabilize the society and the economy.

Somalia on 20 August had welcomed the emergency relief efforts under way, including the beginning of a two-month emergency airlift of food by the United States. The World Food Programme (WFP) had conducted an airlift, in cooperation with the Red Cross and other agencies, into isolated areas in the interior of Somalia and had for some time been flying in food to Mogadishu and the southern region of the country, where starvation and death were most widespread.

The main challenge, reported the Secretary-General on 28 August *(S/24480)*, was not delivering humanitarian relief supplies to ports and airports in Somalia, but protecting the convoys transporting supplies to warehouses and distribution centres.

Somalia has been embroiled in a clan-based civil war since President Mohammed Siad Barre, the country's leader for 21 years, was ousted in January 1991.

The United Nations Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM) was established by the Council on 24 April with the adoption of resolution 751 (1992), which authorized the immediate dispatch of 50 UN military observers to monitor the cease-fire between warring factions in Mogadishu.

The Security Council on 28 August had authorized the additional deployment of up to 3,000 security troops for UNOSOM, bringing its total strength to 4,219 personnel. The strengthened operation includes a 500-member force already deployed in the capital city of Mogadishu and a specialized logistical support staff of up to 719.

Four new security units, each with as many as 750 troops, were to be formed to secure the delivery and distribution of desperately needed food and other humanitarian relief supplies throughout war-torn, famine-stricken Somalia, a country on the Horn of Africa.

In unanimously adopting resolution 775 (1992), the Council also approved the establishment of UNOSOM headquarters in four operational zones, as part of the UN Secretary-General's plan to establish a presence in all parts of Somalia.

In each of the zones—the northwest (Berbera), the northeast (Bossasso), the central rangelands in Mogadishu (Mogadishu) and the south (Kismayo)—a consolidated UN operation would carry out humanitarian relief activities, cease-fire monitoring, security, demobilization and disarming, and national reconciliation efforts.

Banditry and looting

The cease-fire in Mogadishu—agreed to among the Somali factions on 3 March—had held "reasonably well", the Secretary-General reported *(S/24343)* on 22 July. However, banditry and looting remained a major problem in both parts of the city and tension had increased noticeably in July, he stated, as a consequence of an incident involving a plane chartered by the WFP.

The aircraft, still bearing UN markings, was allegedly used for an illegal flight to Mogadishu to deliver newly-printed Somali currency and military equipment to one of the factions. An opposing warlord accused the UN of bias and delayed the deployment of UN observers, which leaders of the main factions had agreed to on 29 June.

Deployment resumed after the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mohamed Sahnoun, secured assurances on 16 July that the currency would not be distributed. By 23 July, all 50 observers had arrived in Mogadishu and were deployed along the demarcation line separating the city into two zones.

Throughout Somalia, where the food situation was "critical", there were "incredible scenes of hunger, disease and dying children", the Secretary-General reported. "Civil conflict has prevented agricultural activity in the normally productive areas of the south, and the north and central regions are suffering from severe drought. The threat of widespread famine in rural areas has become a reality."

The situation in the health sector was equally grave, he stated. Potable water was no longer available and large numbers of people were at serious risk of epidemics. Only 15 hospitals remained partially functional, most with no water, electricity, drugs or even basic medical equipment.

Access for aid deliveries had increased throughout Somalia,

Maya Vidon

Nowhere is the margin of survival so slim, the future so bleak as in the Horn of Africa

Mr. Eliasson told reporters in New York on 16 July. Several agencies were actively involved, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which had delivered some 83,000 metric tonnes of food to Somalia between January and July. More than 213,000 metric tonnes were in the pipeline for distribution by the end of 1992.

The Secretary-General on 15 July issued an updated consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Horn of Africa, asking for more than $500 million for humanitarian assistance to the countries concerned and outlining the need for special efforts to contain population movements and prevent the problems of one country from spilling over to neighbouring countries.

"Nowhere do so many millions of people continue to be poised so precariously on the brink of death as in the Horn of Africa", he stated. "Nowhere is the margin of survival so slim, the resources so scant and the future so bleak."

UN Photo 159398

Getting food to the victims has been met with serious obstacles.

The Council on 24 July approved the establishment of four operational zones in Somalia, which the Secretary-General hoped would, as he put it, "adapt" UN involvement to the complexity of the situation in Somalia and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian operations.

In unanimously adopting resolution 767 (1992), the Council also strongly supported the Secretary-General's decision to dispatch a technical team to Somalia to examine: the possibility of monitoring cease-fire arrangements in parts of the country other than Mogadishu; the possible deployment of UN military observers in south-west Somalia; the feasibility of an "arms for food" exchange programme; the need for security forces to escort and protect humanitarian aid activities and personnel in other parts of the country; and a possible UN role in re-establishing local police forces.

Urgent airlift requested

The Secretary-General was requested to make full use of all available means and arrangements, including mounting an urgent airlift operation to accelerate the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Somali people. All parties, movements and factions were urged to facilitate UN efforts to provide urgent humanitarian assistance.

The Council also reiterated its call for the full respect of the safety of personnel of humanitarian organizations and for the guarantee of their complete freedom of movement, and appealed to those involved to extend full cooperation to the military observers and ensure their security. All parties, movements and factions were also called upon to cooperate with the UN towards the urgent deployment of security personnel.

In addition, the Council asked the Secretary-General to promote an immediate cessation of hostilities and continue urgently his consultations with all parties, movements and factions towards convening a conference on national reconciliation and unity in Somalia, in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

It stressed the need to observe and monitor strictly the general and complete embargo of all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia, as mandated by resolution 733 (1992).

A 'divided country'

"Somalia today is a divided country, fragmented on clan and family lines, without any recognized channels for political action", the Secretary-General observed in his report.

While the "inherent dangers" of working in Somalia posed enormous operational difficulties for the UN, the threat of mass starvation facing large segments of the population required "an immediate and comprehensive" response from the UN and the international community, he asserted, concluding that UN efforts must be enlarged to bring about an effective cease-fire throughout the country, while at the same time pressing forward with parallel efforts to promote national reconciliation.

On 28 July, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that nearly 600 Somali boat people seeking asylum in Kenya had been evacuated from two vessels which had arrived off that country's coast six days earlier.

Some 800,000 people had fled to neighbouring States, including Ethiopia, Djibouti, Yemen and Kenya, which hosted some 330,000 refugees. The UNHCR was urgently seeking resettlement for the most desperate and vulnerable cases.

The WFP, which had initially concentrated relief efforts on the Mogadishu area, expanded its food assistance programme in early August to include Kismayo in the south-east region of Somalia, where fierce factional fighting had caused mass displacements of people.

On 17 August, the WFP launched a major airlift to Baidoa, in the rangelands west of Mogadishu, where townspeople were severely affected by malnutrition, and planned airlifts to Hoddur and Baidera, where people were also reported to be in precarious condition.

A WFP spokesman on 20 August said that up to that time there had been no armed security to protect either

relief personnel or convoys operating in Somalia. Often, "food that is distributed during the day, is taken away by gunmen at night", he said.

On 12 August, ongoing negotiations conducted by Special Representative Sahnoun with leaders of the main factions in Mogadishu succeeded in finalizing an agreement to deploy a 500-member security force as authorized in resolution 751.

The Council on 14 August endorsed *(S/24452)* the Secretary-General's proposal *(S/24451)* that such security force be composed of a contingent from Pakistan and to proceed with its deployment as soon as possible. The troops were flown in by the United States military during the last two weeks of September.

On 28 August, the Council authorized deployment of four additional 750-strong security units in different parts of Somalia. They would be armed to provide relief convoys with sufficiently strong military escort to deter attack.

By unanimously adopting resolution 775, the Council invited the Secretary-General to establish four UNOSOM zone headquarters, as authorized in resolution 767. Each zone headquarters would be headed by a civilian Zone Director who, with the necessary administrative staff, would assist the Special Representative.

New security units

The Secretary-General reported that agreement had been reached to deploy two of the new security units to provide security for relief-supplies convoys.

The Council subsequently authorized deployment of three specialized units—as many as 719 personnel—to provide logistics, communications and medical support to the security force.

By resolution 775, all parties, movements and factions in Somalia were called on to cooperate with the UN towards the urgent deployment of security personnel and to cease hostilities immediately and maintain a cease-fire throughout the country. The Secretary-General was asked to continue efforts to seek a comprehensive political solution to the crisis in Somalia.

The Council also welcomed substantial enhancement of the airlift operation to areas of priority attention in Somalia and the material and logistical support offered by several States. It urged that airlifts be coordinated by the UN, with the WFP office in Nairobi as the focal point for such operation.

Reiterating its appeal to the international community to provide adequate financial and other resources for humanitarian efforts, the Council stressed the need for the observance and strict monitoring of the arms embargo imposed against Somalia under resolution 733 (1992).

The Secretary-General reported that "food for arms" could be an important component of an effort to improve security conditions in Somalia through a disarmament and demobilization programme but, according to the technical team, it would not be effective as long as arms were seen as "a means not only of personal security but also of survival".

UN Photo 159384

A mobile communications centre for the UN security force deployed in Somalia to guard the delivery of humanitarian relief supplies.

Somalia was caught in "a vicious cycle" of insecurity and hunger, he observed. Lack of security prevented the delivery of food, while food shortages contributed to the level of violence and insecurity.

He called for the immediate implementation of the preventive zone concept—assisting people where they were located in order to prevent population movements and problems of one country from spilling over to neighbours—reflected in his 15 July Inter-Agency Appeal for the Horn of Africa.

Food and seeds

The implementation of the concept, under UNHCR leadership, would consist in its first phase of an operation to deliver food and seeds from Kenya to a preventive zone on the Somali side of the border aimed to reduce cross-border movements of people in search of food and contribute to decreasing friction in the border area.

The Secretary-General asserted that the Somalis themselves should progressively assume responsibility for establishing conditions and arrangements for distribution of humanitarian assistance. Therefore, he stated, a stronger UN role in securing access, transport and distribution of relief supplies must be paralleled by an effort to involve Somali entities fully in all aspects of that process.

Meanwhile, a UN spokesman confirmed on 28 August that two UN military observers had been wounded by gunfire while driving in an unarmed but clearly marked UN vehicle in the southern part of Mogadishu.

Under-Secretary-General Eliasson led a high-level inter-agency mission to Somalia from 10 to 12 September, during which meetings were convened with political leaders, clan elders, non-governmental organizations, the ICRC and UN relief workers.

100-day plan

The UN agencies participating in the mission —including the WFP, the UN Children's Fund, UNHCR, the UN Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the World Health Organization—decided to undertake a massive infusion of food and other relief activities, after the main factions in Somalia agreed that, during the next 100 days, free and safe access would be provided for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

During the 100-day period, the WFP aimed to deliver some 100,000 tonnes of food, as well as seeds, tools and livestock. On 13 September, the WFP began air-dropping food to isolated towns in Somalia which could not be reached by other means.

UNHCR would establish a full-time presence to support Somalis returning from Ethiopia and UNDP would undertake relief and recovery activities, giving priority to the restoration of essential basic services. In connection with the inter-agency mission and after the intervention of the Special Representative, the port of Mogadishu, which had been closed since 28 August after it was attacked and fuel, food and trucks were looted, was reopened.

The Face of Death

Maya Vidon

It was like the apocalypse, the end of the world, reported French photojournalist Maya Vidon after her three-week tour of tragedy-stricken Somalia. There she witnessed sights—looting, shooting, starvation, death—which, she said, "made me forbid myself to think, to feel". She used her camera as a shield so she could "detach and see the picture only".

Ms. Vidon was there, early one September morning, when Mohammed Osman *(above)* collapsed beneath a tree at the Red Crescent feeding centre in Baidoa, in the rangelands of southwestern Somalia. Attempts to feed him a few drops of milk failed. "As Mohammed's breathing became increasingly uneven, I kept myself at a distance", she said, "not daring to invade this man's intimacy in his last minutes". Suddenly he turned his eyes towards her. "I was pierced by his stare," she said, "even knowing he could not see me". Five minutes after this picture was taken, Mohammed Osman died.

EC declaration

On 14 September, the Foreign Ministers from the European Community (EC), who had visited Somalia earlier that month, issued a declaration *(A/47/440-S/24558)* stating that the "collapse of Government in Somalia and the resulting tragedy for its people" required a "most committed response" from the international community. The level of outside aid should be "commensurate to the gravity of the situation", they declared, appealing to other States to join with them in increasing the volume of international aid to Somalia.

The declaration confirmed their full support for the UN role in Somalia, asserting that it was through Special Representative Sahnoun's consultations that legitimate government could be re-established in that country.

None of the Somali factions could lay claim to speak as the legitimate authority in Somalia, according to EC Member States, who called on the factions to restore legitimate authority through a process of national reconciliation. ■

UN Special Representative declares Angolan elections 'generally free and fair'

But some 'irregularities' noted

While the elections were conducted without major incidents, tensions ran high afterwards.

The first-ever multi-party presidential and parliamentary elections held in Angola were certified—"with all deficiencies taken into account"—on 17 October as "generally free and fair" by Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Angola Margaret J. Anstee.

The electoral process, organized and directed by the National Electoral Council, was observed by the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) and supported by technical assistance from the UN Development Programme.

Results of the elections—held on 29 and 30 September—gave 49.57 per cent of the vote to Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos who heads the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and 40.07 per cent to Jonas Savimbi, President of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The remainder were divided among nine other candidates.

Under Angolan electoral rules, if a candidate received more than 50 per cent of the vote, he would be declared the winner. But if no candidate obtained a majority, the two top contenders would compete in a run-off.

In the parliamentary elections, the governing MPLA party received 53.74 per cent, with UNITA getting 34.10 per cent.

In her 17 October statement following the official announcement of the election results by the National Electoral Council, Ms. Anstee noted that the electoral campaign had been conducted without major violent incidents.

As a result of complaints by the Angolan parties that there had been widespread, massive and systematic irregularities and fraud during the entire electoral process, four commissions, established by the Electoral Council, investigated the allegations and such matters as the consistency of polling records, the security of ballot boxes, the control of surplus electoral kits and supplementary polling stations, she said.

Following the investigations, Ms. Anstee said the UN considered that, "while there were certainly some irregularities in the electoral process, these appear to have been mainly due to human error and inexperience".

There was no conclusive evidence "that the irregularities were of a magnitude to have a significant effect on the results", she added. "Nor, in view of their random nature, could it be determined that such irregularities had penalized or benefitted only one party or set of parties".

The UN urged all Angolans, including all political leaders, to respect and support the results of this stage of the electoral process, Ms. Anstee stated. A further certification would be made after a second round of presidential elections, she said.

UNAVEM II: Overseeing elections

The Security Council, by resolution 626 (1988) of 20 December 1988, created the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) to oversee withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. On 30 May 1991, the Council, by resolution 696 (1991), established a new mandate for the Mission. The new operation—known as UNAVEM II—was to carry out new verification tasks arising from the 31 May 1991 "Peace Accords for Angola" signed in Lisbon, Portugal, until general elections in that country were completed. The Accords called for a de facto cease-fire from 15 May 1991.

On 24 March, the Council broadened the mission's mandate to include observation and verification of free and fair multi-party elections set for September 1992. In unanimously adopting resolution 747 (1992), the Council approved an operational plan for UN observation of the elections and enlargement of UNAVEM II, whose Chief is Margaret J. Anstee, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola.

Its expanded responsibilities included: verifying electoral rolls, reporting on complaints, irregularities and interferences; and observing all activities relating to voter registration, polling and counting, computation and announcement of results.

Results contested

The voting process comprised four phases: registration, from 20 May to 10 August; electoral campaign, from 29 August to 28 September; actual voting, on 29 and 30 September; and ballot counting, complaint investigation, and announcement of results, on 17 October.

An ad hoc commission of the Security Council was sent to Angola from 11 to 14 October to support implementation of the Peace Accords, after reports reached the Council that one of the parties to the Accords was contesting the validity of the elections. The Council decided on 6 October to send the commission.

Welcoming the commission's contribution to reducing tension in Angola and "to finding a solution to the difficulties that arose after the elections", the Council on 19 October called upon the parties to abide scrupulously by all the commitments entered into within the framework of the Accords, in particular with regard to the demobilization of their troops and the formation of the Unified Armed Forces, and to refrain from any action that could increase the tension.

Council members said they looked forward to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's recommendations on the contribution of the United Nations to ensuring the completion of the presidential elections.

In September, prior to the elections, recognizing that Angolans had reached a crucial and very delicate stage in their peace process, the Secretary-General sent messages to the Angolan President and UNITA, emphasizing the "critical need for determined and unequivocal leadership" in order to stem the recent spate of violent incidents and to instil confidence in the populace that the results of the elections would be respected.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the Government and UNITA had to complete urgently some major unfinished tasks, including full control of the national territory by the central administration.

The Secretary-General appealed for "leadership at this critical juncture" by the two leaders, asking them to ensure that their followers acted "with restraint and tolerance".

Attempts by the main political parties to gain electoral advantage at any expense could "all too easily endanger the peace process", he said. All political parties must pledge to respect the results of the elections, as verified by UNAVEM II. The electoral arrangements had been implemented by the Angolan parties themselves.

Campaign concern

On 18 September, the Council, in a statement by its President, endorsed the Secretary-General's appeal to the two leaders and affirmed its conviction that the electoral process was irreversible.

Concerned at the deterioration of the political and security situation in Angola, Council members called upon the parties to take urgent steps to complete certain essential measures for holding free and fair multi-party elections, including demobilization of the remaining troops of the Government and UNITA, the collection and centralized storage of weapons, and the rapid completion of the formation of the new National Angolan Armed Forces. It was also essential, they said, that the police should operate as a "neutral, national force".

The Council said it was encouraged by reports of positive decisions reached by the two leaders at a 7 September meeting, in particular their reported agreement in principle to form a government of national reconciliation after the elections.

In his 9 September report (*S/24756*), Mr. Boutros-Ghali congratulated Angola for maintaining its UN-invoked cease-fire for 15 months and for its success in registering the great majority of its adult population for the elections.

Some 4.86 million voters—nearly 90 per cent of the estimated adult population—had been registered, he stated.

On the eve of the elections on 28 September, Special Representative Anstee urged further demonstration of leadership, restraint and tolerance by the leaders of the major parties.

Largest UN airlift

To bring thousands of registered voters from remote areas to polling stations during the elections, the UN undertook in the second half of September the most extensive civilian helicopter airlift of people in its history. Forty 20-passenger helicopters and nine fixed-wing aircraft were deployed in an operation costing an estimated $10 million.

On 1 October, Special Representative Anstee in a statement said that the great majority of Angola's registered voters had cast their votes in "peaceful and orderly" conditions.

"They turned out to cast their ballots in towns and remote villages spread over a devastated country nearly the size of Western Europe and, as they did during registration, once again showed extraordinary determination, patience and discipline, often waiting hours to cast their vote", she said. Thus, Angolans demonstrated a "civic responsibility and dignity worthy of emulation by any country".

The Council on 6 October called upon all parties to respect the obligations they had assumed under the Peace Accords, especially respect for the final election results. Any challenge must be settled through the mechanisms established for that purpose, it said.

Following an 8 October meeting with the Secretary-General in New York, Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro Van Dunem "Loy" told reporters that the Ad Hoc Commission's mission to Angola was an important sign that the UN was continuing to back the country's efforts towards democratization.

The Commission left New York on 9 October for Luanda, the Angolan capital. During three days of meetings with, among others, the Angolan and UNITA Presidents, South African Foreign Minister R. F. Botha, Ms. Anstee and officials of the National Electoral Council, the Commission underscored the importance of full implementation of the Peace Accords, including upholding the integrity of the electoral process.

The Commission noted with grave concern the increase in the acts of violence and the rising level of tension in Angola, and appealed to its people and all parties to safeguard the peace that they had achieved after years of devastating war.

The Commission was satisfied with assurances of the leaders of the two main parties to take every possible step to prevent violence in the country, and to restore and consolidate further the unified Angolan armed forces, which, it said, should be done "expeditiously".

Any resumption of armed confrontation would meet with the international community's strongest condemnation, it stressed. "Only in peace can Angola achieve democracy and prosperity." ■

The UN undertook its most extensive civilian helicopter airlift ever to bring thousands of voters from remote areas to polling stations during the elections

UN Photo 149421/M. Grant

Special Representative Margaret Anstee *(left)* visited polling places throughout Angola.

Observers sent to monitor Mozambique cease-fire

New UN peace-keeping operation on horizon

Welcoming the signing on 4 October in Rome of a General Peace Agreement for Mozambique between the Government and the Resistência Nacional Moçambicana (RENAMO), the Security Council on 13 October endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal to appoint an Interim Special Representative and dispatch to Mozambique 25 military observers to monitor the newly-agreed cease-fire.

In unanimously adopting resolution 782 (1992), the Council said it looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a UN Operation in Mozambique, to be called by its Spanish acronym, ONUMOZ.

"We believe that the sending of this first group of military observers is of paramount importance to our country and our people", Mozambique's Permanent Representative to the UN, Pedro Comissário Afonso, said to the Council before the vote. The holding of the cease-fire depended largely on the "adequate and active presence of the United Nations observers in the field", he added.

The Peace Agreement *(S/24635)*, which brought a formal end to the 16-year civil war in Mozambique, requests the UN to take a "major role" in its implementation, specifically relating to the cease-fire, elections and humanitarian assistance.

The UN had been invited in June 1992 to participate as an observer in the peace negotiations, mediated by the Government of Italy since their beginning in July 1990.

The Agreement—signed by Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano and RENAMO President Afonso Macacho Marcela Dhlakama—calls for the cease-fire to be followed rapidly by demobilization of both forces and creation of a new 30,000-strong Mozambican Defence Force (FADM).

Elections in 1993

Under the Agreement, each side would contribute 15,000 troops to FADM within six months of the day the cease-fire went into effect on 15 October 1992—known as E-Day. Meanwhile, new political parties will be formed in preparation for democratic general elections to be held one year after E-Day.

RENAMO is to continue its activities as a political party which, like all parties registered under the terms of the Agreement, will have "the right freely and publicly to propound its policies".

> Council looks forward to report on the establishment of ONUMOZ

On 13 October, the Secretary-General appointed Aldo Ajello, an Italian national, as Interim Special Representative for Mozambique. He headed for the capital city of Maputo to assist in beginning the process of implementing the Agreement and ensuring access to all people in need of humanitarian assistance throughout the country.

He was to be in overall charge of UN activities in support of the Agreement, including monitoring its implementation, providing technical assistance to the electoral process, and executing specific tasks relating to military arrangements and humanitarian assistance.

According to a 9 October report *(S/24642)* outlining the initial UN plan for Mozambique, a team of 25 military observers, to be drawn from existing peace-keeping missions, would establish a presence in Maputo, Beira and Nampula. They were to: carry out limited verification of cease-fire arrangements; establish liaison with both parties in those regions and provide them with technical advice; facilitate the build-up of the mission; and carry out reconnaissance and other activities.

A 'new leaf'

In a 7 August Joint Declaration *(S/24406)*, the two parties stated that they were "convinced that the suffering of the people of Mozambique, caused by the war and aggravated by the effects of the worst drought in living memory, necessitates the taking of expeditious measures to end the war".

They agreed to bind themselves to "accepting the role of the international community and especially that of the United Nations" in monitoring and guaranteeing the Rome Agreement.

The international community had a responsiblity to help the Mozambican people as they "turn a new leaf in their history", said Sir Ketumile

Masire, President of Botswana, who witnessed the signing of the Agreement on 4 October. "We all have a community of interest to ensure that peace and development are achieved in Mozambique."

Also welcoming the Agreement, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a 5 October statement that "the willingness of the two parties to put aside the animosities of the past and work for peace in their war-ravaged country is a most encouraging development".

Comprehensive role

The comprehensive role of the UN in implementing the Agreement in Mozambique was "an enormous challenge", which would require greater effort and more resources than was the case in Angola, he said.

The Secretary-General promised support for the electoral process, including provision of specialists and other assistance. UN staff left for Mozambique in early September on electoral and technical missions.

"The Organization's efforts with Mozambique will be important in the region as a whole and the measures required must be approached as a comprehensive package", he asserted.

However, the Secretary-General on 9 October reported that it would not be possible for the UN to establish "more than a token presence" by the time the cease-fire was set to become effective on 15 October.

"The viability of the cease-fire will therefore, in its early stages, depend critically on the political will and strict compliance of the two parties", he asserted.

Implementing peace

Implementation of the Agreement is to be overseen by a Supervisory and Monitoring Commission, consisting of a chairperson, appointed by the Secretary-General, and representatives of the Government, RENAMO, the UN, the Organization of African Unity, and France, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Two commissions, chaired by the UN, will monitor the cease-fire itself, dealing with security arrangements for vital infrastructures, and the economic and social reintegration of demobilized forces.

A third UN-supervised body will coordinate and monitor all humanitarian assistance, as stipulated in a 16 July Declaration by the Government of Mozambique and RENAMO, on guiding principles for humanitarian assistance, which became an integral part of the Agreement.

The humanitarian commitments of the two parties will "need to be translated into concrete agreements for access to the affected areas and populations", the Secretary-General reported. "This will need to be done with great urgency and in a manner which will ensure that all the activities of the United Nations in the political, security and humanitarian fields reinforce each other."

Adequate resources to ensure the rapid resettlement, reintegration and rehabilitation of the war-affected populations will also be critical to successful implementation of the Agreement, he concluded.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees on 18 September reported that as many as 300,000 Mozambicans might seek asylum in neighbouring Malawi and Zimbabwe by the end of 1992. More than 1.5 million refugees had already fled fighting, famine and drought in their homeland over the last decade, it stated. ■

Some 1.5 million Mozambicans have fled fighting and famine in their homeland over the last decade

UNHCR/18018/A. Hollmann

Deployment of UN observers authorized for South Africa

Adil Bradlow/Southlight/SABA

Demonstrations on 7 September in South Africa, during which at least 28 persons were killed.

The Security Council on 17 August authorized Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to deploy UN observers in South Africa to help end the spiralling cycle of violence, the continuation of which, the Council said, "would seriously jeopardize peace and security in the region".

In unanimously adopting resolution 772 (1992), the Council invited the Secretary-General to assist in strengthening the structures set up under the 14 September 1991 National Peace Accord (NPA) aimed at ending the violence and facilitating the socio-economic development and reconstruction in South Africa.

Deployment of UN observers, the Council stated, should be implemented by the Secretary-General "in such a manner and in such numbers as he determines necessary to address effectively the areas of concern noted in his report" *(S/24389)*.

On 9 September, the Secretary-General deeply deplored the killing of at least 28 people and the wounding of nearly 200 in Ciskei during a 7 September demonstration organized by the African National Congress (ANC).

The Special Committee against Apartheid at the same time stressed that "such senseless killing at this crucial juncture in South Africa's transition process cannot fail to undermine all progress so far made". It called on the country's authorities to assume immediate control of the Ciskei military and initiate an urgent investigation, in order to "identify and bring to justice those found responsible for this act of violence".

On 10 September, the Council emphasized the responsibility of the South African authorities for the maintenance of law and order, and called on them to "take all measures to end the violence and to protect the right of all South Africans to engage in peaceful political activity without fear of intimidation or violence".

Observers in 11 areas

On 9 September, it was announced that 50 UN observers were being sent to South Africa. An advance party of 13 observers left for South Africa on 11 September.

Observers are to be stationed in 11 areas around the country: Natal/Kwazulu, Border/Ciskei, Wits/Vaal, Western Cape, Orange Free State, Northern Cape, Far Northern Transvaal, Northern Transvaal, Eastern Transvaal, Eastern Cape and Western Transvaal.

Also in resolution 772, the South African Government, parties and organizations were called upon to extend their full cooperation to the UN observers to "enable them to carry out their tasks effectively". The Council also invited international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Commonwealth and the European Community, to consider deploying their own observers in South Africa, in coordination with the UN and the structures set up under the NPA. The Council decided to remain "seized of the matter until a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa is established".

Following the 17 June massacre of some 40 demonstrators in Boipatong township, the Council condemned the escalating violence in South Africa and urged measures to end the violence and bring those responsible to justice. In adopting resolution 765 (1992) on 16 July, it also called for the appointment of a Special Representative to recommend steps to assist in reaching that goal.

On 17 July, Cyrus Vance, former United States Secretary of State, was named Special Representative to South Africa. He is also serving as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Yugoslavia and on Nagorno-Karabakh.

During his mission to South Africa (21-31 July), Mr. Vance held meetings with South African President F. W. de Klerk and other senior Government officials, as well as with representatives of political parties, church groups, business and trade union organizations, and leading individuals.

Reasons for violence

On 7 August, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali reported *(S/24389)* that the reasons for violence in South Africa were "complex and deep". The "special desperation" that apartheid brought could in the long run, he said, only be remedied by rapid progress towards the creation of a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa. That was the goal not only of the negotiations within the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), but also of the international community as a whole.

Working in close association with the National Peace Secretariat, UN observers would be stationed in various parts of the country and their number could be supplemented, as necessary, by other appropriate international organizations.

Also recommended was the establishment of offices or operations centres at major "flashpoints" in the country where violence was most likely to occur. Those offices should be staffed on a 24-hour basis and each should have a standing group composed of representatives of the Government, the ANC, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and other concerned parties.

While urging the major parties to return as early as possible to the negotiating table, the Secretary-General stressed that the task of conducting those negotiations was "uniquely the responsibility of South Africans themselves". In his view, the immediate release of all remaining political prisoners could "contribute greatly to improving the political climate, creating trust and burying the unhappy past".

For all of its shortcomings, the CODESA process must be pursued, improved, better coordinated and made much more transparent, as it "needs to encourage others, who have not yet joined to do so", he continued. A deadlock-resolving machinery should be established at the highest political level and CODESA should consider appointing an eminent and impartial person, who need not be a foreigner, to "draw the strings together and to provide the impetus and cohesion" that the negotiations needed to be successful.

According to the Secretary-General, the far-reaching work being undertaken by Justice Richard Goldstone, Chairman of the Commission of Enquiry into Public Violence and Intimidation, should be supported by the international community, and the Commission's recommendations, especially those relating to a total ban on the public display of dangerous weapons and the security of hostels, should be fully and speedily implemented by the South African Government and parties.

> The Secretary-General called for 'deadlock-resolving machinery' to provide impetus for negotiations

The Commission's code of conduct for mass demonstrations could also do much to control violence and the leaders of major political parties should, as the Commission recommended, take firm steps to stop their supporters from participating in acts of violence.

The Secretary-General proposed that the Goldstone Commission undertake a series of investigations into the functioning and operations of certain agencies, including the army and the police, the Umkontho we Sizwe, the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the KwaZulu police and, more generally, certain private "security firms".

Finally, the Secretary-General proposed that UN missions should be undertaken on a quarterly basis or more frequently, if the situation so warranted, in order to provide regular, impartial and objective information to the Security Council.

10-day mission

During the 10-day Vance mission, Government representatives reported that the South African President had taken numerous initiatives to combat the violence, which had resulted in the coming into being of the NPA in 1991 and the appointment of the Goldstone Commission.

The ANC emphasized the need for an "adequate and not merely a symbolic" number of UN monitors, having freedom of movement and the independent resources needed to act as the "eyes" of the international community. It suggested a team of some 450 members for that purpose, with the monitors having a background in policing.

The IFP believed a "multiparty conference of review" was needed to "look into the entire situation and to serve as a permanent structure for deadlock resolution", since CODESA lacked a "dispute-resolving machinery at the level of head of party".

The Vance mission had held extensive discussions with Justice Goldstone, who indicated his readiness to work with the UN, if

UN Photo 180569/M. Grant

In addressing the Council on 16 July, Mr. Mandela said violence in the black townships was tearing his country apart.

necessary, to gain further international support for his Commission.

The mission was urged to do all it could to strengthen the NPA mechanisms. Existing South African structures, Mr. Goldstone added, should be used as "instruments through which the international community should play a role in seeking to curb the violence".

Thorough discussions were held with the chairmen of the National Peace Committee and the National Peace Secretariat, who explained that NPA provided a "comprehensive framework for ending violence", since it had been signed by all of the major political parties, trade unions, and religious and civic organizations.

The mission had met with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and a senior delegation from the South African Council of Churches. Mr. Tutu said the breakdown in constitutional negotiations resulted from the Government's demand to build into any constitution a minority veto.

Addressing the Security Council meeting on 16 July on behalf of the OAU, Foreign Minister Djibo Ka of Senegal said South Africa had been "plunged into an atmosphere of unacceptable violence", which the Boipatong tragedy had "significantly worsened". The massacre of innocent people and physical violence was the "daily lot" of millions of South Africans, and the country had reached a "dangerous impasse". The Government was responsible for guaranteeing the security of people, safeguarding individual integrity and creating a climate of civil peace.

Violence opposed

ANC President Nelson Mandela told the Council that over the past six years, at least 11,000 people had died as a result of violence in the black townships, "tearing our country apart". Control of State power by the National Party regime allowed it the "space to deny and cover up its own role, as well as those of its surrogates and the State security forces in fostering and fomenting the violence", which was "organized and orchestrated".

Although conceding to instances of counter-violence by members of the democratic movement, he stressed that the ANC policy was opposed to the promotion of violence, and the organization was firmly committed to that position.

Faced with the "horrendous escalation" of violence and in view of the regime's failure to carry out its May 1991 agreements with the ANC to curb the violence, the ANC had been forced to withdraw from the multilateral process of the CODESA negotiations, Mr. Mandela said.

Also at its 16 July meeting, the Council reviewed an 8 July letter *(S/24255)* from South African Foreign Minister R. F. Botha, who stated that his Government sought an urgent resumption of the CODESA negotiations—launched in December 1991, but suspended in June with the ANC withdrawal after the Boipatong massacre. The leaders of the major parties should totally accept responsibility for further steps to curb the violence, he stated.

Addressing the Council, Mr. Botha said President de Klerk had taken "initiative upon initiative" to combat violence, often without support from other parties. The changes initiated were irreversible. There could be no justification for the claim that the Government's constitutional proposals manifested a desire to cling to power or to entrench a white veto, Mr. Botha contended.

IFP Chief Buthelezi said that the ANC's withdrawal from CODESA and its adoption of confrontational politics in mass-action programmes were "aimed at shaping South African politics to its liking". The construction of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic State would call for "reconciliation and statesmanship of the highest order".

De Klerk meets Mandela

An agreement to resume efforts towards establishing a democratic order in South Africa, as well as the immediate release of 150 political prisoners, marked the 26 September meeting between Mr. Mandela and President de Klerk. The Government stated it would also release the remaining political prisoners by 15 November.

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, warmly welcoming this development, hoped that the meeting would help transform the political atmosphere in the country in a "positive way and lead rapidly to the resumption of multilateral negotiations involving all parties concerned".

However, hours after the meeting, Chief Buthelezi said he was breaking off relations with the Government. He vowed to oppose the creation of an interim government and accused President de Klerk of "connivance" with Mr. Mandela. ■

Morocco and POLISARIO urged to ensure success of settlement plan

Security Council members on 31 August asked the parties to the Western Sahara conflict to abstain from any provocative behaviour endangering the settlement plan for self-determination of the people of the Territory.

The parties—Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO)—were also asked to abide scrupulously by the cease-fire established on 6 September 1991.

Council members also hoped *(S/24504)* that both parties would extend their full cooperation to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and his Special Representative Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan in their efforts to achieve speedy progress in the implementation of the plan, which calls for UN organization and supervision, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, of a referendum for self-determination of the Territory's people, who would choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

Council members also strongly urged the parties themselves to make extraordinary efforts to ensure the plan's success and agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal to maintain the existing deployment and staffing of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the strength of which, as of 31 August, was 365 military and civilian police personnel.

The Secretary-General reported *(S/24464)* on 20 August that he was encouraged by the progress achieved in his Special Representative's talks with the parties. "It remains to be seen, however, whether the parties are willing to go far enough in adjusting their positions so as to make it possible to advance in real and concrete terms towards the holding of a referendum", he added.

Obstacles to referendum

The Secretary-General recalled that Mr. Yaqub-Khan had held talks with the two parties from mid-June to 2 July. He stated that, while fully cognizant that disagreements over the criteria for eligibility to vote in the referendum were the main obstacles to holding a referendum, the parties agreed that those talks would focus initially on the formulation of safeguards to protect the political, economic, social and other rights and liberties of the losing side in the referendum, whatever its outcome.

> It remains to be seen whether the parties are willing to go far enough to advance in real and concrete terms towards the holding of a referendum

Agreements on such safeguards were expected to remove or allay misgivings and suspicions, and promote an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence in which obstacles to the plan's implementation could be successfully tackled, he said.

Each party was invited to present its views and submit proposals on safeguards to be offered to the unsuccessful party in the referendum. Mr. Boutros-Ghali noted that there had been a substantial decline in the number of confirmed cease-fire violations.

POLISARIO, the Secretary-General observed, had presented a document defining in detail two sets of safeguards—those it would be willing to offer in the event of a victory in the referendum, and those it would like to be applied should the integration option prevail.

According to Mr. Boutros-Ghali, Morocco's proposals for safeguards also addressed both the eventuality of integration and of independence.

Ready for new talks

The Secretary-General said that the talks achieved their principal purpose in the sense that both parties were ready to engage in a new round of talks with the Special Representative to deal with the interpretation of the criteria for eligibility to vote, which was annexed to his predecessor's report *(S/23299)* of 19 December 1991.

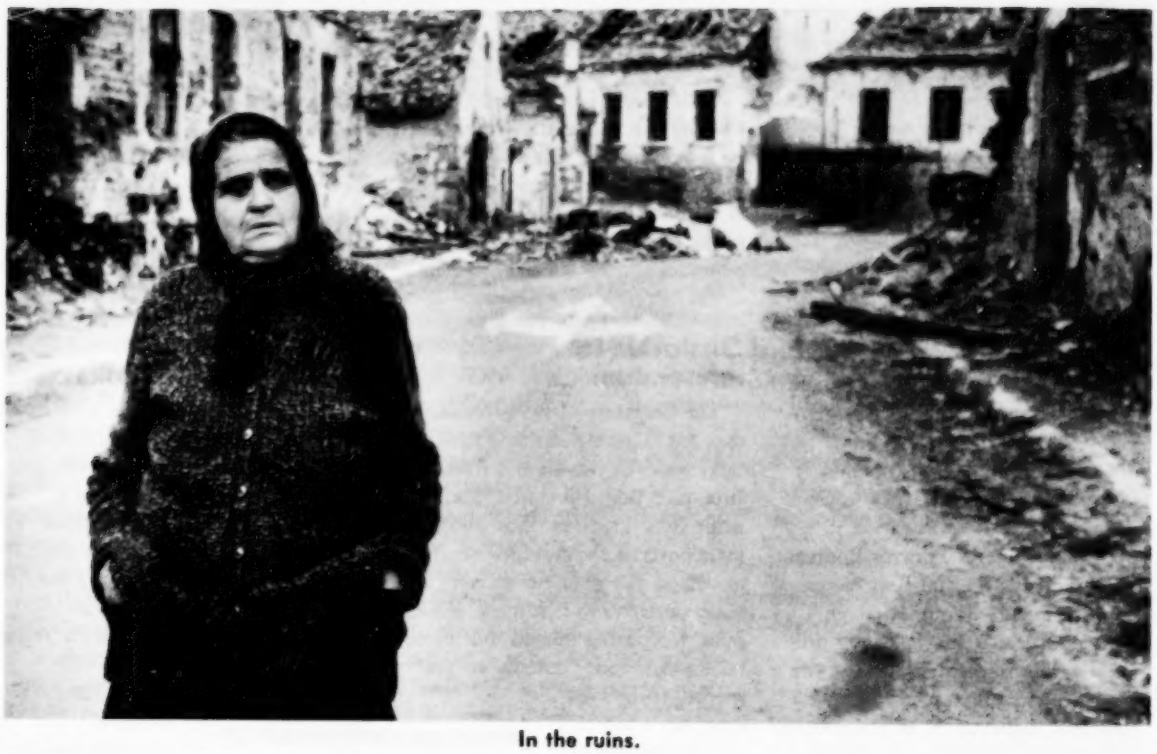
The Secretary-General said he expected both parties to cooperate fully with Mr. Yaqub-Khan in his efforts to break the deadlock in which the settlement plan had found itself since the beginning of 1992.

Those talks were held between 25 August and 25 September, but they were inconclusive, according to Mr. Boutros-Ghali.

Colonel André Van Baelen of Belgium was appointed MINURSO Acting Force Commander as of 1 October 1992. ■

'On the edge of a nightmare'

Security Council acts six more times on Yugoslav crisis



UNHCR Photo/A. Hollmann

In the ruins.

Up to 400,000 people could die from the cold and hunger without emergency assistance in the new State of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the winter of 1992, a UN official warned in Geneva on 29 September. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) predicted that only an immediate and huge international effort could save those people.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, describing the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, called it "one of the worst humanitarian emergencies of our time".

"Many lives are at risk", he said on 4 September in launching a consolidated appeal for $434 million in humanitarian assistance—food, shelter and health services—for victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons were facing the prospect of a harsh winter without adequate food and shelter, he said.

A grim picture of conditions was also painted by UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata. Refugees had been subjected to "horrifying atrocities", through systematic expulsions, forcible relocations, assassinations and other forms of persecution "aimed at persons for no other reason but their national, ethnic or religious origin", Mrs. Ogata said. The policy of "ethnic cleansing" lay at the heart of the conflict.

The potential for displacement in the coming months was "frightening". She observed: "The perversion of minds seems so violent, the destruction of houses so colossal that rebuilding of both may rapidly become impossible. We are poised on the edge of a humanitarian nightmare."

Almost 3 million people, she said, trapped in besieged cities and regions, were directly affected by the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and dependent on external aid. "The numbers continue to rise daily in a horrendous spiral."

On the edge of a nightmare

A UNHCR-led inter-agency assessment mission visited the republics of the former Yugoslavia from 9 to 16 August. It reported that more than 2.7 million people had been directly affected by the crisis and needed emergency humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said a "particularly unconscionable" aspect of the conflict was the deliberate attempt to prevent much needed relief from reaching affected populations. Without a political solution, human suffering would grow worse.

Security Council acts

Between 1 July and 30 September, the Security Council met 10 times to consider the deteriorating situation in the former Yugoslavia. It adopted six resolutions, bringing the total number of texts adopted to 19 since the Council first acted on the situation in September 1991 *(see* UN Chronicle, *September 1992)*.

During those three months, it also issued several presidential statements, most dealing with the progressively worsening situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its capital city of Sarajevo.

In a bid to find solutions to the ongoing impasse, the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, jointly organized by the UN and the European Community (EC), was held in London on 26 and 27 August. British Prime Minister John Major, acting on behalf of the EC, who co-chaired the conference with Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, said the meeting achieved significant results.

On 25 August, the General Assembly, in resolution 46/242, urged the Council to take further measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to end the fighting in and restore the unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a special resumed session on 13 and 14 August, the UN Commission on Human Rights met on the situation in the former Yugoslavia and condemned "ethnic cleansing" and human rights violations, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

An international airlift to provide humanitarian assistance to Sarajevo and its environs had delivered more than 12,000 tonnes of desperately needed food, medicine and other relief supplies by 3 September, when it was suspended following the shooting-down of an Italian Air Force plane participating in the airlift.

It was announced on 20 August that the 15,000-strong United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)—established on 21 February by the Council to create the conditions of peace and security required for the negotiation of an overall settlement of the Yugoslav crisis—had so far suffered 12 fatal casualties.

Emergency airlift begins

Following the withdrawal of Serbian forces from Sarajevo airport on 29 June, the UN began an emergency airlift on 3 July to provide humanitarian assistance to 450,000 residents of the besieged city of Sarajevo and its environs. Before the airlift, the city had been cut off by fierce fighting for three months. Many families had had nothing to eat but bread, noodles or rice.

On 1 July, the Secretary-General reported *(S/24222)* to the Security Council President that the situation in Sarajevo, in particular in relation to the airport, "remains preoccupying" in view of continued fighting. Following consultations on 2 July, Council President José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde strongly appealed to all parties involved to cooperate fully with UNPROFOR and the UN, in order to reach a complete cease-fire in and around Sarajevo.

Planes from nearly 20 countries participated in the airlift, coordinated by UNHCR and UNPROFOR. After unloading, supplies were taken by UNHCR to five main warehouses in the city, then distributed by local humanitarian organizations to 102 municipal districts.

On 13 July, the Council authorized the Secretary-General to deploy immediately additional UNPROFOR elements to ensure

UNHCR Photo/E. Dagnino

Basic food items, such as milk, are increasingly difficult to obtain in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

UN Photo 159234/J. Isaac

Sarajevo Sector Commander, Brigadier-General Hussein Ali Abdel-Azek of Egypt, briefs his staff.

the security and functioning of Sarajevo airport and the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In unanimously adopting resolution 764 (1992), the Council demanded that all parties and others concerned cooperate fully with UNPROFOR and international humanitarian agencies to facilitate the evacuation by air of cases of special humanitarian concern and to facilitate provision of aid to other areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina in desperate need of assistance.

The Council called on all parties concerned to resolve their differences through a negotiated political solution to the problems of the region and, to that end, cooperate with the renewed efforts of the European Community, with the support of States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, within the framework of the European Community conference on Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General was to keep in close contact with the developments within the framework of the conference and assist in finding a negotiated political solution. He was also asked to ensure unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Council reviewed a 10 July report *(S/24263 and Add.1)* of the Secretary-General on developments relating to the reopening of Sarajevo airport under UNPROFOR auspices.

Describing the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as "one of the worst humanitarian emergencies of our time", Mr. Boutros-Ghali recommended increasing the number of additional personnel required for the Sarajevo operation to 1,600, rather than the 1,100 originally proposed. The Sarajevo airport operation, he said, was based upon "foundations of the utmost fragility".

Heavy weapons under supervision

On 17 July, the Council decided in principle to respond positively to the request made in a cease-fire agreement reached earlier in the day in London by representatives of the Serbian, Croatian and Muslim Slav factions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, calling for UNPROFOR to supervise all heavy weapons, such as combat aircraft, armour, artillery, mortars and rocket-launchers.

In a statement on behalf of the Council, President José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde welcomed the agreement signed within the framework of the European Community peace conference. The parties were called upon to declare immediately to the UNPROFOR Commander the locations and quantities of the heavy weapons to be placed under supervision.

They were asked to observe scrupulously the cease-fire throughout the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Agreements concerning the return of all refugees and the freedom of movement for civilians trapped by the military situation were welcomed. Maximum use of the cease-fire to bring humanitarian relief and supplies to all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina was urged.

The parties agreed to a two-week cease-fire effective 19 July, during which time they would explore measures to strengthen the cease-fire in the longer term. They also agreed not to initiate fire of any sort, even in response to provocation, and to place their heavy weapons under international supervision.

Council concurs

At a meeting on 24 July, the Council concurred with the Secretary-General's view that "conditions do not yet exist" for the UN to supervise the heavy weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as envisaged in the 17 July London cease-fire agreement.

In a statement by Council President Jesus, the Council invited the European agencies concerned, particularly the European Community, to enhance cooperation with the UN. The Secretary-General was asked to contact all Member States, particularly those belonging to relevant European organizations, about possible contributions of personnel,

equipment and logistic support.

The Council emphasized that parties must respect and maintain a cease-fire through the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina and declare immediately to UNPROFOR the locations and quantities of heavy weapons to be placed under supervision.

On 21 July, the Secretary-General reported *(S/24333)* that the parties had not made available any relevant information, adding that conditions did not exist for him to recommend that the Council accept the parties' request that the UN supervise the heavy weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Until 19 July, 280 relief flights carrying 3,346 metric tons of humanitarian supplies had landed in Sarajevo. However, the airlift was suspended for one day on 20 July because of a "seriously" deteriorating situation around Sarajevo airport. The airlift was resumed on 21 July.

UNHCR Photo/P. Kessler

Crossing the Sava River—the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

The Council demanded that the Red Cross be given access to all camps, prisons and detention centres

On 4 August, the Secretary-General condemned the shelling of the airport which obliged the UN to suspend humanitarian flights on three occasions during the day. The attacks, he said, appeared to have been "deliberate", jeopardizing the safety of both UN personnel and aircraft. UN operations at the airport were then suspended for 72 hours.

Humanitarian flights were resumed on 8 August. By 3 September, 1,025 flights were carried out, delivering 12,401 tons of relief supplies.

On 3 September, an Italian Air Force plane carrying about 1,000 pounds of blankets crashed south of Sarajevo airport while participating in the airlift. Four crew members were killed. Following the incident, it was announced that all humanitarian activity in the area had been suspended pending an investigation.

Abuses condemned

In unanimously adopting resolution 769 (1992) on 7 August, the Council, strengthening UNPROFOR's mandate to perform immigration and customs functions, also resolutely condemned abuses committed against the civilian population, particularly on ethnic grounds. All parties and others concerned must cooperate with the Force, the Council demanded.

The Council also approved the increase of more than 800 staff in UNPROFOR's civil affairs component and in the number of civilian police monitors. This was recommended in a 27 July report *(S/24353 and Add.1)* of the Secretary-General on UNPROFOR's progress in implementing its mandate in Croatia, difficulties encountered by the Force, and concerns of the Croatian Government regarding control of its international borders.

On 13 August, the Security Council, recognizing that the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina threatened international peace and security and acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, called upon States to take, nationally or through regional arrangements, all necessary measures to facilitate, in coordination with the UN, the delivery of humanitarian assistance to that republic.

In adopting resolution 770 (1992) by a vote of 12 to none, with 3 abstentions (China, India, Zimbabwe), the Council reaffirmed its demand that all parties and others concerned in Bosnia and Herzegovina stop the fighting immediately.

The Council demanded that unimpeded and continuous access to all camps, prisons and detention centres in the country be granted

immediately to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other humanitarian organizations, and that all parties and others concerned take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of UN and other personnel engaged in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In a second resolution—771 (1992)—adopted unanimously the same day, the Council called upon States and international humanitarian organizations to collate substantiated information relating to violations of humanitarian law, including grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, being committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and to make the information available to the Council. The Secretary-General was to summarize the information and recommend additional measures.

It strongly condemned any violations of international humanitarian law, including "ethnic cleansing", and demanded that all parties in the former Yugoslavia and all military forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina immediately cease and desist from breaches of international humanitarian law.

Acting under Chapter VII, the Council decided that failure by all parties and others concerned to comply with its demand would require the Council to "take further measures under the Charter".

Interference, intervention

The Council met at the request of a number of countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, which on 10 August asked *(S/24401)* for an urgent Council meeting "in view of the grave and deteriorating situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with regard to the most serious violations of human rights and international law, involving acts of interference and armed intervention by a foreign country, threatening international peace and security".

The Council was asked to take "appropriate collective measures"

Commission on Human Rights: 'Ethnic cleansing' condemned

The first exceptional session of the 53-member Commission on Human Rights, which met on 13 and 14 August in Geneva on the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, condemned "ethnic cleansing" and human rights violations, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It asked that its Chairman appoint a Special Rapporteur to investigate the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia.

(Commission Chairman Pal Solt of Hungary subsequently appointed Tadeusz Mazowiecki, former Polish Prime Minister, as Special Rapporteur.)

In adopting the resolution without a vote, the Commission also demanded immediate, unimpeded and continued access by ICRC to all camps and places of detention.

The Special Rapporteur was to gather credible information, visit "areas of interest" and report urgently to Commission members, providing a preliminary report no later than 28 August.

Such information, including that which might constitute war crimes, could be of possible future use in prosecuting violators of international humanitarian law. The Secretary-General was asked to make that report available to the Security Council.

The Commission demanded that all parties in the territory of the former Yugoslavia cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in implementing its resolution.

The Commission's session was the first of its kind in the body's history. It was convened in accordance with a 1990 provision authorizing such meetings between regular sessions if a majority of members so agreed. The session was convened at the request of the United States, with the support of 35 Commission members.

On 5 August, Morris B. Abram, United States Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, cited the "dangerous deterioration of the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia", as well as great concern over "potentially massive human rights violations".

He referred to reports of citizens being rounded up and summarily and arbitrarily executed, and of villages being destroyed and homes demolished, as well as international authorities being hindered in their efforts to gain access to sites of alleged brutality.

Special Rapporteur Mazowiecki reported *(A/47/418-S/24516)* to the Assembly and the Council on 3 September that "massive and grave violations" of human rights were being perpetrated throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina by "all parties to the conflicts". There were victims on all sides. However, the situation of the Muslim population was "particularly tragic"—they felt that they were "threatened with extermination".

Acts of violence were tolerated and often even encouraged by responsible authorities. Rule of law did not exist. The indoctrination of a large part of the population that was taking place encouraged national and religious hatred.

Despite a high level of commitment, UN personnel were unable adequately to protect the affected population and were helpless to prevent human rights violations. The Special Rapporteur stressed the need for immediate concerted action. Even when peace was achieved, serious violations of human rights were likely to continue due to the "intensity of mutual distrust and hatred", he affirmed.

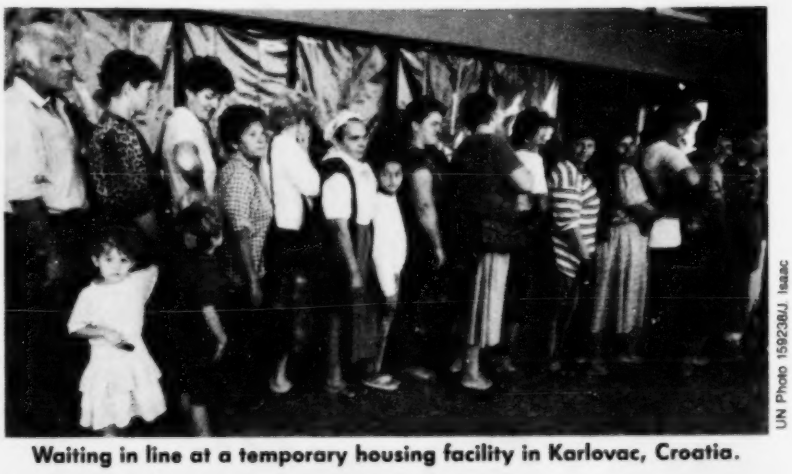
under Chapter VII of the Charter to restore peace and stability in the region.

On 4 August, the Council expressed deep concern at continuing reports of widespread violations of international humanitarian law, in particular regarding imprisonment and abuse of civilians in camps, prisons and detention centres within the territory of the former Yugoslavia and especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a statement by Council President Li Daoyu of China, the Council condemned "any such violations and abuses" and demanded that relevant international organizations, and in particular the ICRC, be granted immediate, unimpeded and continued access to all such places. The Council also wanted any further information regarding those camps and access to them.

The Council reaffirmed that all parties were bound to comply with obligations under international humanitarian law and in particular the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

The Council met in response to requests from the United States and Venezuela which expressed concern over abuses of civilian prisoners in camps and torture of citizens.



UN Photo 159238/J. Isaac

Waiting in line at a temporary housing facility in Karlovac, Croatia.

The Assembly acts

On 25 August, the General Assembly, after a two-day debate, urged the Security Council to consider urgently taking further measures, as provided in Chapter VII of the Charter, to end the fighting in, and restore the unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It also condemned the violation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the massive violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular the abhorrent practice of "ethnic cleansing", and demanded that that practice be ended immediately and that further steps be taken urgently to stop the forcible displacement of population from and within the country.

It did so in adopting Assembly resolution 46/242 by a vote of 136 to 1 (Yugoslavia), with 5 abstentions (Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, the Russian Federation).

The Assembly demanded that the Yugoslav People's Army units and the Croatian Army elements in Bosnia and Herzegovina be either withdrawn, subjected to the authority of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, or disbanded and disarmed with their weapons placed under effective international monitoring.

It was also demanded that ICRC be granted immediate, unimpeded and continued access to all camps, prisons and other places of detention within the territory of the former Yugoslavia and that all parties ensure complete safety and freedom of movement for ICRC and otherwise facilitate such access.

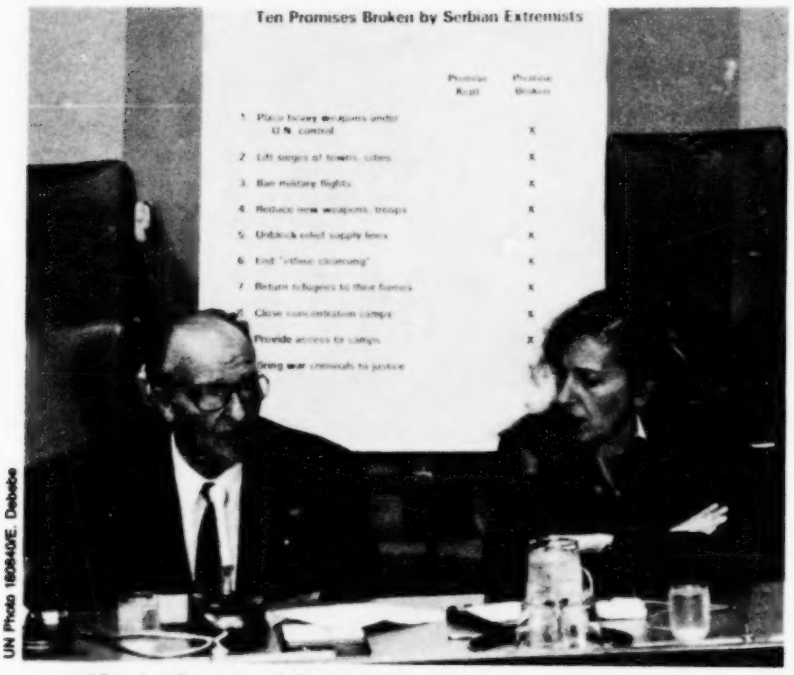
The Assembly demanded the safe, unconditional and honourable repatriation of refugees and deportees to their homes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and recognized their right to receive reparation for their losses.

All parties and others concerned were urged to take measures to secure the safety of UNPROFOR and all other UN personnel.

Turkey had requested the Assembly meeting on behalf of the 47-member Organization of the Islamic Conference, in light of the violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity

UN Photo 180649/M. Grant

Delegates confer before the Security Council acts to strengthen UNPROFOR on 7 August.



UN Photo 180840E. Debebe

Alija Iztebegovic *(left)*, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, meeting the press at UN Headquarters on 22 September.

of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the "grievous suffering" of its inhabitants.

London conference

The London international conference was attended by some 40 countries, the parties to the conflict and international organizations.

In a joint press conference with the UN Secretary-General on 27 August, United Kingdom Prime Minister Major reported that the Yugoslav parties had pledged themselves to a code of conduct.

For the first time, Mr. Major continued, all parties had accepted a settlement that would include recognition of Bosnia and Herzegovina by all former Yugoslav republics, respect for integrity of present frontiers unless changed by mutual agreement and the principle that acquisition of territory by force would not be accepted.

There was also agreement on a mechanism to secure the end of hostilities. The humanitarian effort should be stepped up. Unconditional agreement was reached to dismantle detention camps.

More sanctions, if necessary

Finally, agreement was reached on specific ways to tighten existing sanctions, including better reporting and monitoring of breaches. Most conference participants were ready to apply further sanctions, if necessary, he stated.

Both Mr. Major and Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali agreed that the conference would "remain in being until a final settlement of the Yugoslav problem".

On 31 August, Cyrus Vance, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia and Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee established at the London Conference, told the press in New York that because the conference had decided that the European Community and the UN should meld their activities—bringing together peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace-building—an important institutional process had been set in motion.

Bosnian-Serb leader Radovan Karadzic had said that his side would notify the UN of the position of all heavy weaponry, which would be put under continuous UN supervision.

The Bosnian-Serb side would expect the Bosnian Government to take reciprocal action, but its own action would be unilateral. In negotiations between the Bosnian parties, it would withdraw from a substantial portion of the territory under the control of its forces.

Call for cooperation

On 2 September, the Security Council, noting the urgency of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, called on the parties concerned to cooperate fully with the Steering Committee to help achieve a comprehensive settlement.

In a statement by its President, José Ayala Lasso of Ecuador, the Council expressed full support for the principles adopted and agreements reached at the conference. It shared the hope that the political will shown in London would speedily be transformed into the concrete actions foreseen in conference documents.

The Council expressed satisfaction that the conference had established the framework within which an overall political settlement of the crisis might be achieved. It called for the complete implementation of all previous Council resolutions relating to the former Yugoslavia.

The Council also noted the commitments entered into by the parties and others concerned within the conference framework, underlining the importance it attached to the full implementation of those commitments as rapidly as possible.

On 14 September, the Council authorized the enlargement of UNPROFOR's mandate and strength in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to provide protection for convoys transporting humanitarian aid and released detainees.

UN Photo 159244/J. Isaac

Young refugee girl receives her meagre daily food ration.

In adopting resolution 776 (1992) by a vote of 12 to none, with 3 abstentions (China, India, Zimbabwe), the Council approved the Secretary-General's report *(S/24540)* proposing that the Force be expanded by a factor of four or five, in order to enable the delivery of some 5,000 tonnes a week of humanitarian relief, under UNHCR supervision. The expansion was to be carried out at no cost to the UN, as a number of States had offered their support.

Member States were also urged to provide the Secretary-General with such assistance as he deemed appropriate in the performance of UNPROFOR's expanded functions.

The Secretary-General had reported that additional resources could also be used to protect convoys of released detainees. An expansion should represent "the best possibility for ensuring increased deliveries of humanitarian relief to the suffering people of Bosnia and Herzegovina", he stated.

On 12 September, the Council had agreed that, on an exceptional basis, UNPROFOR could use existing resources to protect some 4,000 or more Muslim and Croat detainees to be released from Serb detention camps in northern Bosnia and Herzegovina and be taken to transit facilities in Croatia.

A worsening situation

On 9 September, Special Rapporteur Mazowiecki said he was deeply concerned about the worsening situation in Sarajevo, "which has reached dramatic dimensions". "Most serious crimes" had been perpetrated continuously. The city had been cut off from humanitarian aid and there was a critical shortage of food and water. Heavy weapons had not yet been placed under international control and shelling by heavy artillery continued unabated.

He appealed to "all those committing acts of aggression" to halt immediately the use of weapons to avoid further loss of innocent lives. He was confident that the Security Council and all international organizations involved in peace and relief efforts would do their utmost to save Sarajevo from a "holocaust".

Airlift resumed

On 19 September, the three leaders in the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina signed agreements in Geneva giving assurances to UNHCR for the security of humanitarian operations throughout the region. Upon receipt of the assurances, which covered both land and air operations by UNHCR and its partners, High Commissioner Ogata recommended to participating Governments the immediate resumption of the airlift as soon as possible because of the urgent need to stockpile supplies before the onset of winter.

Following a meeting with the Secretary-General on 25 September, the Foreign Ministers of the five permanent members of the Security Council issued a statement expressing their deep concern over the situation in the former Yugoslavia. They called on all the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to stop military actions immediately. ■

Membership not automatic for Yugoslavia

The Security Council, in adopting resolution 777 (1992) on 19 September, recommended that the General Assembly decide that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should not participate in the work of the Assembly and should apply for membership in the UN. It considered that the Federal Republic could not automatically continue the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Organization.

The vote was 12 to none, with 3 abstentions (China, India, Zimbabwe). The Assembly, in resolution 47/1, on 22 September took the action requested by the Council *(see page 45)*.

Iraqi oil revenues to be transferred to pay for consequences of Kuwait invasion

UN inspectors enter Baghdad Ministry after 22-day stand-off

The Security Council on 2 October decided to assume control of Iraq's assets frozen outside that country—estimated at between $500 million and $1 billion—to compensate victims of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and to defray the costs of UN activities related to Iraq.

In unanimously adopting resolution 778 (1992) by a vote of 14 to none, with 1 abstention (China), the Council condemned Iraq's continued failure to comply with its obligations under relevant Council resolutions. The resolution was adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Iraqi oil funds specified in the resolution would be transferred to a UN escrow account administered by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who would use the fund to pay for UN activities related to Iraq and shift 30 per cent of that account to the UN Compensation Fund, created by the Council on 20 May 1991 to pay claims against Iraq arising from its invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The Council decided that the resolution would be suspended if Iraq agreed to export its oil, pursuant to the system provided in Council resolutions 706 (1991) of 15 August and 712 (1991) of 19 September or if it decided to lift sanctions against Iraq.

(By resolution 706, the Council had stipulated terms for the limited sale—not to exceed $1.6 billion initially—of Iraqi oil and oil products under strict conditions and close UN monitoring, with the revenues to be used for humanitarian purposes. Under resolution 712, the Council created a basic structure and set out measures for the sale of Iraqi oil.)

In resolution 778, the Council reaffirmed its concern about the nutritional and health situation of the Iraqi civilian population and the risk of a further deterioration of that situation. It also deplored Iraq's refusal to cooperate in the implementation of resolutions 706 and 712 which, it stated, "provide a mechanism for providing humanitarian relief to the Iraqi population". Iraq, the Council said, was putting its civilian population at risk by refusing to cooperate.

During the Council debate, the United States stressed that resolutions 706 and 712 had created a mechanism to fund UN operations—mandated by resolution 687 (1991), as well as UN humanitarian relief operations in Iraq—from Iraqi oil sales.

Resolution 687, adopted on 3 April 1991, set detailed conditions for a formal cease-fire, ending the hostilities resulting from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and provided conditions essential to the restoration of peace and security in the region. Among the conditions was total Iraqi compliance with UN decisions.

A reasonable response

The United States said that resolution 778 was a "reasonable and proportionate" response to Iraq's intransigence. Iraqi assets would thus be "borrowed" for the Secretary-General's use to pay for UN operations, such as the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, the Compensation Fund and humanitarian programmes.

China, in explaining its vote, said it hoped for an agreement between the UN Secretariat and Iraq on the export of Iraqi oil, so that relevant Council resolutions could be effectively implemented. In view of that, it was unnecessary to "take so extraordinary a measure as the seizure of frozen assets overseas". The seizure of a country's frozen assets abroad was a matter that concerned its sovereignty and involved complicated legal implications.

Funds to be transferred

The text of resolution 778 states that the Council has decided that all States in which there were Iraqi funds derived from the sale of Iraqi petroleum or petroleum products should transfer those funds to a UN escrow account administered by the Secretary-General.

States in which there was petroleum or there were petroleum products owned by the Iraqi Government or its State bodies, corporations or agencies were to purchase them or arrange for their sale and transfer the proceeds to the escrow account, the Council decided.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to determine the location and amounts of Iraqi oil and the proceeds of its sale, as well as the costs of UN activities related to Iraq, including the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, the provision of humanitarian relief, facilitating the return of Kuwaiti property and the work of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission.

Iraq position

On 30 September, Iraq told the General Assembly that attempts were being made to seize Iraq's frozen assets which had no justification or legality whatsoever, since Iraq had cooperated in good faith with the UN to agree on the export of Iraqi oil and the use of the revenues thereof.

While Iraq endeavoured in earnest to implement its obligations under Council resolutions, the Council had failed to take any step in return towards lifting the blockade or even easing the economic fetters imposed on Iraq. The campaigns of threats and intimidation under cover of UN resolutions continued unabated, Iraq said, in order to create the right climate for the economic blockade to remain in place and for new military strikes to be perpetrated against Iraq to destabilize its political system.

Iraq wanted to be allowed to export crude oil and oil products to produce a net return of no less than $4 billion for a period of six months. Net returns of exports should be deposited in a UN escrow account to purchase foodstuffs, medicines and other civilian needs. The Council should name certain countries from which goods might be purchased in line with normal commercial practices.

Iraq would grant 5 per cent of the net return to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as a contribution towards international relief work in Somalia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries.

Stand-off ends

Iraq on 26 July agreed to allow members of a UN inspection team of the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament into the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation building in Baghdad, ending a 22-day stand-off.

UN Photo 159222/H. Arvidason

Iraqis demonstrated against the presence of UN inspectors in Baghdad.

The incident began on 5 July when access was denied to the UN team, which suspected that Iraq was storing documents relevant to ballistic missiles, as well as information on military suppliers, in the building. Iraq said a search would violate its sovereignty.

Team members kept a round-the-clock watch on the building to prevent removal of material.

On 22 July, after 17 days, team members left the area on the Chief Inspector's indication that there was a threat of violence against the team and totally inadequate Iraqi Government security protection, according to the Special Commission. The body is mandated by the Council to monitor and inspect Iraq's activities in the area of weapons of mass destruction—biological, chemical and nuclear.

Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus joined a new team of inspectors in Baghdad on 28 July after being assured that the Commission would have full access to the Ministry.

On 6 July, Council members had expressed concern at Iraq's refusal to permit the team to enter certain premises designated by the Commission for inspection.

In a statement issued by Council President José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde following consultations, members recalled that under resolution 687 Iraq was required to permit the Commission to undertake immediate on-site inspection of any locations designated by the Commission.

The statement pointed out that Iraq had agreed to such inspections as a condition precedent to the establishment of a formal cease-fire between Iraq and Kuwait and the Member States cooperating with Kuwait, in accordance with Council resolution 678 of 29 November 1991. That text, among other things, authorized the use by Member States of "all necessary means" to implement relevant Council resolutions and to restore international peace and security in the area.

UN Photo 159122/H. Arvidsson

Remains of ballistic missiles destroyed by Iraq and verified by the UN inspection team.

An unacceptable breach

The Council said Iraq's refusal to permit access constituted a material and unacceptable breach by Iraq of resolution 687.

Council members demanded that Iraq immediately admit the inspectors so that the Commission might establish whether or not any documents, records, materials or equipment relevant to the Commission's responsibilities were located there.

Mr. Ekeus, after visiting Baghdad, told the press that Iraq was prepared to invite experts from neutral and non-aligned countries to visit the building. While in Baghdad, he warned Iraq of "serious, even tragic consequences" if it persisted in its refusal to authorize an inspection of the building.

He also said Commission personnel had been increasingly subjected to acts of harrassment, including one in which a man with a skewer attempted to stab a UN inspector.

Iraq on 22 July said *(S/24336)* that, since the Commission began work in April 1991, it had provided complete security for inspectors and Commission members, even though some members had "tried in every way to incite and provoke the Iraqi officials and citizens".

The inspection team at the Agriculture Ministry had been provided with all the protection requested. The decision to withdraw "stems from the dilemma in which the Special Commission found itself after Iraq had expressed its readiness to accept the formation of a neutral team to inspect the Ministry in order to ascertain the falsity of allegations concerning the presence of prohibited materials on its premises". The underlying intention was to create a situation enabling influential Council members "harbouring hostility towards Iraq to commit unlawful intervention, thereby achieving their political aims through aggression", Iraq maintained.

After an agreement was reached on 26 July, ending the 22-day stand-off, the Commission team inspected the Ministry building, accompanied by Chairman Ekeus. On 30 July, after reporting to the Council, he said the search was a full and complete success, adding that no material relating to Iraq's proscribed weapons programme had been found.

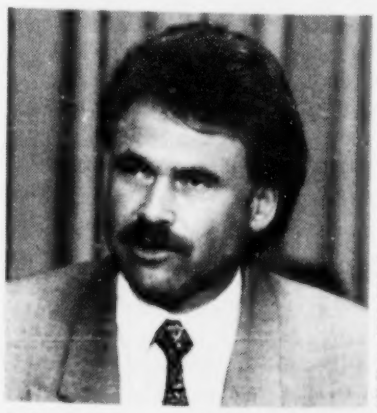
The team's Chief Inspector, Achim Biermann of Germany, reported on 5 August that no documentation or equipment of direct relevance to resolution 687 had been found. He also stated that it could not be excluded that documents or equipment were removed during the period when the team could not carry out its inspection.

Other inspections

The 26 July inspection was the twelfth in a series of inspections of Iraq's ballistic missile capabilities. Eleven earlier inspections had been carried out between 30 June 1991 and 12 May 1992.

The thirteenth ballistic inspection took place from 7 to 18 August, when a team headed by Nikita Smidovich of the Russian Federation visited Iraq. The team reported it had obtained 'important new information on proscribed Iraqi programmes''. However, no evidence was found that Iraq had the capability indigenously to produce complete guidance and control systems for ballistic missiles, nor were any weapons or key components prohibited under resolution 687 discovered.

The thirteenth and fourteenth inspections of Iraq's nuclear capabilities took place from 14 to 21 July and from 31 August to 7 September, respectively. Twelve previous



UN Photo 180643/M. Tzovaras

Achin Biermann, Chief of the UN inspection team refused entry to the Ministry building in Baghdad.

inspections were carried out between 14 May 1991 and 4 June 1992.

The IAEA reported *(S/24450* and *S/24593)* that the work begun during the twelfth inspection to destroy key installations at the Tarmiya and Ash Sharqat electromagnetic isotope separator (EMIS) sites was largely completed during the thirteenth inspection. Eight buildings, four at each site, were destroyed. The Iraqi side was asked to complete the few remaining activities before the end of August for verification by the next team.

Among other things, the fourteenth team verified the completion of the destruction by the Iraqi side of selected buildings at the EMIS sites at Tarmiya and Ash Sharqat.

A team of three scientific experts visited Iraq from 5 to 12 September and inspected and tested two plants built to destroy Iraq's chemical weapons. The results were described as "very successful". The experts inspected and ran commissioning tests on the two plants, constructed at Muthanna by Iraq after a design that was approved and supervised by the Special Commission. The destruction of Iraq's chemical weapons is expected to take 6 to 12 months.

It was announced on 24 September that the Special Commission had begun the destruction of nerve agents on a large scale in a newly-commissioned hydrolysis plant.

The ninth in a series of inspections of Iraq's chemical capabilities took place from 21 to 29 September. The first eight were held between 9 June 1991 and 29 April 1992. The ninth team conducted a survey of the quantities and locations of chemical agents and munitions awaiting destruction.

Humanitarian aspects

On 22 October 1992, an agreement was reached in principle on a Memorandum of Understanding until the end of March 1993 for the UN humanitarian programme in Iraq.

The previous Memorandum was originally signed on 18 April 1991. It had been extended in November 1991 and had expired on 30 June 1992.

In a 25 September statement, the Foreign Ministers of the five permanent members of the Security Council—Qian Qichen of China, Roland Dumas of France, Andrei V. Kozyrev of the Russian Federation, Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom (representing Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd) and Acting Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger of the United States—deplored persistent Iraqi non-compliance with relevant Council resolutions and expressed deep concern at the deteriorating conditions affecting the safety of UN personnel in Iraq.

> The Council was particularly disturbed by Iraq's failure to ensure the safety of UN guards and other humanitarian personnel

On 4 September, Jan Eliasson, Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, told the press in New York that there were security problems for the personnel carrying out the humanitarian programme in Iraq. Working conditions were far from ideal in several parts of the country, and travel and visa restrictions made it difficult for those people to operate. The programme was grinding to a halt.

On 4 September, Iraq told the Council President *(S/24520)* that security measures could only be effective if the movements of UN staff were "closely coordinated with the competent Iraqi authorities".

Iraq had warned UN officials in charge that "some parties loyal to the Western countries", together with Iranian and Kurdish elements protected by those countries, sought to cause problems with the UN staff, in order to tarnish Iraq's image and justify the conspiracies against Iraq.

It said: "Iraqi citizens clearly feel resentment towards the United Nations staff, but nothing personal is meant." The Iraqi people would "feel well-disposed again" only if the UN lifted the embargo and desisted from "attacks on their dignity and interventions into the internal affairs of their country".

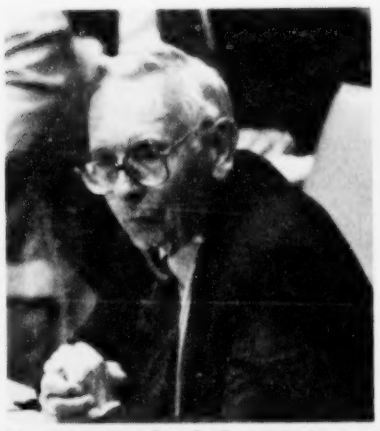
In a statement on behalf of the Council, President José Ayala Lasso of Ecuador said it was particularly disturbed by Iraq's continuing failure to ensure the safety of the personnel of the UN and non-governmental organizations and urged Iraq, "in the strongest possible terms", to cooperate with the UN.

On 17 July, the Council had registered its profound concern at the deteriorating security conditions, demanding that attacks against UN guards and other humanitarian personnel in Iraq cease immediately.

On 17 July, Iraq told the Secretary-General *(S/24311)* of a regrettable incident in which a UN guard had been killed in northern Iraq on 16 July in the Governorate of Dohuk, which was controlled by "irresponsible Kurdish irregulars" supported by coalition forces led by the United States. Iraq bore no responsibility for that "heinous incident", which was in reality "a consequence of the illegal interference by the United States and its allies" in Iraq's internal affairs.

Boundary matters

The Security Council on 26 August urged the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission to demarcate as soon as possible the eastern section of the boundary between the two countries, which included the offshore boundary, thus completing its work.



UN Photo 180666/M Tzovaras

Max Van Der Stoel, Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on Iraq, reports to the Security Council.

Iraq and Kuwait were urged to cooperate fully with the Commission.

In adopting resolution 773 (1992) by a vote of 14 to none, with 1 abstention (Ecuador), the Council underlined its guarantee of the inviolability of the international boundary between the two countries, as well as its decision to take measures to support that guarantee.

The 15-member body welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to carry out at the earliest time the realignment of the demilitarized zone to correspond to the international boundary demarcated by the Commission, "with the consequent removal of the Iraqi police posts".

Demarcation of land boundary

The Commission on 24 July said that at its sixth session (15-24 July, New York), it had completed a further report covering the land boundary and had agreed on arrangements for the physical representation of that boundary. The demarcation had been made after a detailed analysis of evidence it had assembled over a year. Both Iraq and Kuwait had had every opportunity to provide it with all relevant material and evidence.

The Commission pointed out that the oil wells in the fields between Safwan and the Batin, exploited in the past by Iraq, "already fell in Kuwait according to the boundary shown on the British map" referred to in resolution 687. Iraq's access to the sea was affirmed, the Commission noted, by the decisions to leave the Umm Qasr port complex, including warehouses, crane installations, deep-water anchorage, two wide berths, the Navy hospital, the sulphur works and the Umm Qasr village, as well as Khowr Zhobeir, within Iraqi territory.

Rejecting unequivocally "any allegations of partiality", the Commission stressed that it was not reallocating territory between Kuwait and Iraq but was simply carrying out the technical task necessary to demarcate for the first time the precise coordinates of the international boundary between the two countries.

The demarcation of the land boundary with permanent markers was in progress and would be completed by the end of 1992, the Commission stated.

Iraq did not participate in the session. In a 12 July letter *(S/24275)* to the Secretary-General, Iraq said it was clear that its views would not be heard in the Commission. Iraq charged the Commission with taking a "biased decision" on the part of those countries that planned the Commission's work "to harm Iraq's interests and deny its historic rights".

On 27 July and again on 24 September, the Council decided that the sanctions regime against Iraq should continue.

Major-General Timothy Komla Dibuama of Ghana assumed his new post of Chief Military Observer of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) on 12 July, succeeding Major-General Gunther Greindl of Austria.

Human rights

The Security Council on 11 August considered the human rights situation in certain parts of Iraq, hearing the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Max van der Stoel. He warned that Iraq's food blockade against the Kurds in the north and the Shi'ites in the southern marshes could rapidly develop into a situation where famine could only be avoided by a major international relief operation.

International agencies had gradually withdrawn because of continuing harassment, travel restrictions and Iraq's refusal to grant visas, leaving those populations with practically no protection or support.

Recent bombardment by Iraqi aircraft of the southern marshes pointed to a possible major military effort by the Government to restore control over that region, regardless of casualties.

Iraq rejected the allegations, stating that the Special Rapporteur should have sought clarification from the Government. Iraq had not mistreated either its northern or southern populations.

No-fly zone

On 26 August, the United States, the United Kingdom and France, members of the coalition in the Persian Gulf war, demanded that Iraq cease all aircraft flights over the southern part of that country within 24 hours, stating that the ban was required to prevent Iraqi armed repression of the region's large Shi'ite Muslim population. The ban would include Iraqi military and civilian flights below the 32nd parallel, a swath covering the lower quarter of Iraq.

United States President George Bush warned that the coalition would "respond decisively" if Iraq ignored the order. Surveillance missions would begin over southern Iraq to monitor the situation there, he added.

On 21 August, Iraq told the Secretary-General *(S/24475)* that the true objective of the operation was to "divide Iraq on an ethnic and confessional basis in order to control it, plunder its wealth and enslave its people". ■

Deep concern expressed over implementation of Paris Agreements in Cambodia

PDK refuses to cooperate in some areas

The Security Council on 21 July expressed deep concern at the difficulties met by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in implementing the October 1991 Paris Agreements on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict, and underlined that all signatories to the Agreements were bound by all their obligations.

The Council strongly deplored the continuing refusal by one of the parties to the Agreements—the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK)—to permit the deployment of all UNTAC components to areas under PDK control. It demanded that PDK permit without delay such deployment and implement fully phase II of the cease-fire plan, which calls for cantonment and demobilization of all forces.

Because of PDK's refusal to take part in the regroupment and cantonment process which began on 13 June and was to have been completed by 11 July, "barely 5 per cent of the estimated 200,000 soldiers had been cantoned by that date", UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported on 14 July. In the meantime, UNTAC's military and civilian deployment had been proceeding, and a total of 50,000 refugees and displaced persons had been repatriated.

In unanimously adopting resolution 766 (1992), the Council also reaffirmed the international community's commitment to a process under which UNTAC—the most-expensive peace-keeping operation in UN history with over 18,000 personnel already deployed in the field—could verify the departure of all foreign forces and ensure the full implementation of the Agreements. It also demanded that all parties respect the peaceful nature of the UNTAC mission and ensure the safety and security of all UN personnel.

The Council approved efforts of Mr. Boutros-Ghali and his Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi, to continue to implement the Agreements despite the difficulties; invited them to accelerate the deployment of UNTAC's civilian components; and asked them to ensure that international assistance in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia would only benefit the

UN Photo 159185/P. Sudhakaran

Young soldiers of the Khmer People National Liberation Armed Forces (above) were demobilized in accordance with Phase II of the cease-fire. Another faction—the Party of Democratic Kampuchea—refused to canton its forces.

parties fulfilling their obligations under the Agreements and cooperating fully with UNTAC.

The Council deplored the continuing cease-fire violations and urged all parties to cease all hostilities, cooperate with UNTAC in marking all minefields, and refrain from any deployment, movement or other action intended to extend the territory they control or which might lead to renewed fighting. States, in particular neighbouring countries, were urged to provide assistance to ensure the Agreements' effective implementation.

PDK: non-cooperation

The Secretary-General noted in his 14 July report *(S/24286)* that phase II of the cease-fire had begun on 13 June. PDK, he said, had failed to take measures incumbent upon it for the proper implementation of the Agreements and the UNTAC mandate. Notwithstanding that development, he had asked his Special Representative to press forward with the process of regroupment and cantonment of forces of the four Cambodian parties wherever possible.

PDK had not taken steps to honour its assurances, refusing to canton any of its forces and failing to grant UNTAC free and unrestricted access, to mark minefields in the zones it controlled and to refrain from further violations of the cease-fire.

Instead, PDK had made its own interpretations of the Agreements' provisions relating to verification of withdrawal and non-return of foreign forces, and to the role and powers of the Supreme National Council (SNC). PDK had asserted that those provisions had not been implemented and that until they were, it was not in a position to proceed with the other provisions' implementation.

(The Security Council has declared that the SNC is "the unique legitimate body and source of authority in which, throughout the transitional period, the sovereignty, independence and unity of Cambodia are enshrined".)

Informal proposal

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said an informal proposal for discussion had been drawn up at the Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia, held in Tokyo on 22 June. It included measures designed to meet some PDK concerns and facilitate its participation in fully implementing the Agreements.

Three of the four Cambodian parties had accepted the proposal. PDK, instead, introduced its own proposals regarding the role and powers of the SNC and administrative structures in the zone under the control of the Cambodian People's Party. Those proposals had again been put forward at subsequent meetings, despite steps taken by UNTAC to meet PDK concerns, particularly by strengthening its verification mechanisms to follow up on any evidence of the presence of foreign forces or the provision of outside military assistance, and by giving top priority to the recruitment and deployment of its civil administration staff to exercise direct control over existing administrative structures in the fields of foreign affairs, national defence, finance, public security and information, as well as its supervision in other areas.

The Secretary-General reported that PDK had called for the dissolution of the main institutions and structures established by the Cambodian People's Party in the zone under its control. However, he pointed out, it was clearly understood in the Agreements that UNTAC should exercise control through the "existing administrative structures" of each of the four Cambodian parties, and that Phnom Penh authorities formed part of those "existing administrative structures", which could not be abolished or dismantled.

UNTAC denied access

UNTAC had been denied access to operate in zones controlled by PDK, the Secretary-General reported. In civil administration, while three of the parties had submitted lists of their laws for UNTAC review, PDK had failed to do so.

The three parties had also shown willingness to participate in the regroupment and cantonment process, but PDK had not. PDK also failed to respond to repeated requests to comply with the 12 points listed by the Special Representative to ensure implementation of the Agreements, or to accept the proposal for discussion.

Congo is No. 1

EDITOR'S NOTE: The United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC), which took place in the Republic of the Congo (now Zaire) from July 1960 until June 1964, was the largest peace-keeping operation ever established by the Organization. It had a peace-keeping force of nearly 26,000 at its peak strength—a military component of 20,000 and a civilian component of about 6,000.

Therefore, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), involving more than 22,000 personnel, is the second largest UN peace-keeping operation and not the largest, as stated in the *UN Chronicle* June 1992 issue. However, UNTAC is the largest *current* UN peace-keeping operation.

Also, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), established to create the conditions of peace and security required for the negotiation of an overall settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, with its current strength at more than 14,000, is now the third largest, not the second largest such operation, as reported in the *UN Chronicle* June 1992 issue. However, it is the second largest *current* UN peace-keeping operation.

As a result, UNTAC's ability to adhere to the timetable set by the Council had been seriously compromised.

UNTAC's efforts to continue with the regroupment and cantonment process, with the cooperation of only three of the parties, could not go on indefinitely, Mr. Boutros-Ghali observed. Any further delay in full implementation by all parties of that essential aspect was likely to affect UNTAC's ability to organize and conduct elections on schedule, and could ultimately jeopardize the whole peace process. He urged the Cambodian parties to carry out their obligations relating to phase II of the cease-fire.

> Appeal for tolerance and understanding to avoid racial unrest

On 7 August, the Security Council agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal to add Japan to the list of countries contributing military personnel to UNTAC. Those countries are: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, France, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Senegal, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

The SNC met in Phnom Penh on 23 July, under the chairmanship of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and in the presence of Special Representative Akashi.

The SNC agreed to Mr. Akashi's proposal to establish a technical advisory committee on the management and sustainable exploitation of natural resources.

Mr. Akashi said UNTAC was determined to investigate any allegations regarding the presence of foreign troops, advisers and military personnel.

Mr. Akashi appealed to Cambodians to show tolerance and understanding, and urged all Cambodian authorities to refrain from taking any action which might result in racial unrest.

On 1 July, Mr. Akashi announced that UNTAC's civil administration component had entered its active phase. UNTAC had opened provincial offices throughout Cambodia and appointed Directors in 20 provinces.

UNTAC would exercise direct control over five areas: foreign affairs, national defence, finance, public security and information. Among other areas to be supervised by UNTAC were: public health, education, agriculture, sea and river fishing, transport, communication and postal administration, distribution and production of energy, waterways, transport, tourism and public monuments, mines and general administration.

UNTAC would also begin reviewing laws and regulations of the various administrations to verify whether they were compatible with the Agreements' letter, objectives and purposes.

On 13 August, Mr. Akashi signed the UN Electoral Law for Cambodia, 1992, the content of which was determined in consultation with the SNC.

De-mining, refugees

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Handicap International, a non-governmental organization, on 8 July launched a major de-mining initiative aimed at releasing hundreds of hectares of housing land for returning refugees in Cambodia.

On 28 August, it was announced that more than 100,000 Cambodian refugees and displaced persons had been repatriated from Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, marking an important milestone in the voluntary return programme begun five months earlier by UNHCR.

A ceremony hosted by UNHCR and chaired by Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Akashi was held when a train—the "Sisophon Express"—arrived from the Thai border with some 1,200 returnees aboard. While nearly 250,000 refugees remained in camps outside the country, the rate of repatriation had been rising steadily since the first returnees crossed the Thai-Cambodian border on 30 March and was expected to increase even more when the rains ended in November. ■

UN Photo 159200/P Sudhakaran

UN boats patrol Lake Tonle Sap as part of the UNTAC operation.

Overall situation improves

El Salvador: UN Observer Mission monitors human rights

UN Photo 180551/M. Grant

The Commission on Truth was installed by Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali *(second from right)* in New York on 13 July. The members are *(from left to right)* Reinaldo Figueredo, former Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Belisario Betancour, former President of Colombia, and Prof. Thomas Buergenthal, former President of Inter-American Court for Human Rights.

Although no civilian victims or military casualties have been recorded in El Salvador since the end of the 12-year civil war, UN human rights investigators are documenting violence and abuses which, though tempered, have continued into the peace-keeping period.

The Director of the Human Rights Division of the UN Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) on 12 August called for judicial action against perpetrators of torture in that country and for clear national policy guidelines to ensure strict compliance with detention rules.

Despite serious concerns about summary executions, violent death and threats, the Division reported *(S/24375)* that the overall human rights situation in El Salvador had improved since the establishment of ONUSAL and the subsequent end of the prolonged conflict, which had claimed more than 75,000 lives.

Two independent commissions were also investigating human rights offences: the Commission on Truth in July began to investigate serious acts of violence perpetrated since the civil war began in 1980, while an ad hoc commission had completed a confidential report evaluating the performance of the military as part of the "purification" process.

ONUSAL was established under the 1990 San José Agreement on Human Rights, which reaffirmed the desire of the parties to agree on measures to protect fundamental rights and freedoms. Under the Agreement, the human rights verification mission was to take up its duties upon the cessation of the armed conflict between the Government and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN).

However, at the parties' request, the Security Council decided by its resolution 693 (1991) of 20 May to establish ONUSAL before the end of the armed conflict. Its initial mandate included wide-ranging powers unprecedented in UN history.

ONUSAL's mandate was subsequently broadened to include cease-fire verification and other peace-keeping tasks through resolution 729 (1992), adopted on 14 January following the achievement of a peace agreement on 31 December 1991 between the two parties. The UN-brokered Peace Agreement was

formally signed by the FMLN and the Government in Mexico City on 16 January 1992.

A substantive problem affecting the implementation of the Peace Agreements had related to the distribution of farm land to former combatants.

(In a 19 October letter to the Council, the Secretary-General reported that the two sides had accepted a UN plan for the "prompt and speedy transfer" of large areas of land, especially to former FMLN combatants.)

Other problems, especially related to demobilization of forces, continued to affect the timetable for implementing the agreements, which had already been revised twice.

On 28 September, the Secretary-General sent Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to El Salvador to investigate the delays.

On 2 October, Mr. Goulding told reporters in San Salvador that the UN was concentrating its efforts on "sure implementation of the second 'recalendarización'".

But, he continued, "obviously we do not exclude the possibility that the two sides might agree on a third 'recalendarización'. And if that should happen, that should be regarded as a perfectly reasonable development of this process, and not as some dramatic disaster."

Commission on Truth

The Commission on Truth was dispatched to El Salvador on 14 July following a formal installation ceremony the day before at UN Headquarters in New York.

The three-member Commission was created by the Salvadorian Government and the FMLN under the Mexico Agreements of 27 April 1991, in which they agreed on a package of important constitutional reforms regarding the armed forces and the judicial and electoral systems.

It is mandated to investigate serious acts of violence whose impact on society "demands as a matter of the greatest urgency that the public should know the truth".

Former Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar had appointed the Commission members: former Colombian President Belisario Betancur; former Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo; and Prof. Thomas Buergenthal, former President of the Inter-American Court for Human Rights and Honorary President of the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights.

Breaches of human rights were kept to a minimum following the cease-fire, but traces of violent behaviour persist

Another human rights body on 23 September submitted its confidential report to President Cristiani and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

An ad hoc commission established on 19 May 1992 as a result of the Peace Agreements reviewed records of many of the more than 2,000 active duty officers in the Salvadorian armed forces for possible human rights abuses by the military.

It also evaluated the professional competence of each officer and his ability to function in the new situation of peace, within the context of a democratic society.

If evidence was found, the commission could recommend removal from the military or change of assignment. Under the Peace Agreements, President Cristiani must implement the recommendations within 60 days of its formal presentation.

According to ONUSAL's report on its first year of human rights verification efforts, while the Peace Agreements "undoubtedly express the willingness of the parties and of the people of El Salvador to embark on a new phase in their history", it had not been possible "in the space of a few months to eliminate the consequences of a turbulent past, where social tensions were resolved by confrontation and conflict rather than through dialogue and cooperation".

Following the cease-fire, breaches of international humanitarian law were kept to a minimum and substantial improvements were recorded with regard to certain rights, the report states. However, "some traces of violent behaviour continue to persist", including unwarranted use of force or firearms and threats of violence and intimidation.

ONUSAL concluded that although it had "fulfilled the preventive role assigned to it" concerning the protection of human rights, serious problems remained, in particular the "lack of any institutional response with regard to the protection of the right to life" and "no significant progress" in the systematic investigation of attempts on human life or on the eradication of intimidation and threat by organized clandestine groups.

Haiti mission

On 15 July, the Secretary-General informed the Council that he had accepted the offer of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) to include UN participation in an August mission to Haiti.

The OAS had taken a leading role in efforts to restore democracy in Haiti following the coup of 30 September 1991 which deposed President Jean Bertrand Aristide. The Secretary-General's mandate under General Assembly resolution 46/7 is more limited and is supposed to support the action of OAS. ■

Overall agreement on Cyprus expected

UN Photo 186570/DM Grant

High-level talks at Headquarters on 14 August. President George Vassiliou *(second from left)* and His Excellency Rauf Denktash *(third from left)* at the negotiating table.

The Security Council on 26 August expressed expectation that an overall framework agreement on Cyprus would be concluded in 1992.

In resolution 774 (1992), adopted unanimously, the 15-member body reaffirmed its position that a Cyprus settlement must be based on "a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities . . . in a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation". It also reaffirmed that such a settlement must exclude "union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession".

The Council endorsed a set of ideas, including suggested territorial adjustments reflected in a map put forth in the 21 August report *(S/24472)* of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, as the basis for reaching an overall agreement. The Council agreed that the set of ideas, as an integrated whole, had been sufficiently developed "to enable the two sides to reach an overall agreement".

The set of ideas covers the following: overall objectives; guiding principles; constitutional aspects of the federation; security and guarantee issues; territorial adjustments; displaced persons; economic development and safeguards; and transitional arrangements.

> High-level meeting sought on set of ideas endorsed by the Council

The Council urged the parties, when they resume the talks with the Secretary-General in October, to pursue uninterrupted negotiations until an overall framework agreement was reached on the basis of the entire set of ideas.

The Council also reaffirmed that the Secretary-General, following satisfactory conclusion of the talks, convene a high-level international meeting chaired by him in which the two communities, as well as Greece and Turkey, would participate.

The Council said it expected that 1993 would be the transitional period during which measures contained in the annex to the set of ideas would be implemented.

It reaffirmed that the present status quo was "not acceptable" and,

should no agreement emerge from the talks in October, called on the Secretary-General to identify reasons for failure and recommend to the Council alternative courses of action to resolve the Cyprus problem.

In his report, the Secretary-General said the set of ideas had emerged after two years of consultations with the parties concerned. The set of ideas incorporated the understanding that Cyprus was the common home of the two communities, within the federal republic of Cyprus, and acknowledged and ensured the political equality of the two communities. It envisaged a federal Government that could not encroach upon the powers and functions of the communities and a bicameral legislature composed of a lower house with a 70:30 ratio of Greek Cypriots to Turkish Cypriots, and an upper house with a 50:50 ratio.

The federal republic would result in a "new partnership and a new constitution for Cyprus" that would govern the relations of the two communities on a federal basis that is "bi-communal as regards the constitutional aspects and bi-zonal as regards the territorial aspects". The set of ideas included principles on territorial adjustments and displaced persons.

Progress reviewed

Mr. Boutros-Ghali reviewed progress made in recent talks held between 18 June and 14 August at Headquarters with leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities—President George Vassiliou and His Excellency Rauf Denktash, respectively. Given the necessary political will, the parties should be in a position to reach an early agreement on the set of ideas when they resumed their talks on 26 October.

Both leaders had been presented with the set of ideas, including suggested territorial adjustments reflected in a map. The map, annexed to the report, delineates

> The Secretary-General said the patience of troop-contributing countries to UNFICYP has run out

two federated States in line with the criteria that a substantial number of Greek Cypriot displaced persons would be able to return to their homes in the area that would come under Greek Cypriot administration. It also took account of criteria mentioned by Mr. Denktash that the territorial adjustment maintain the island's coastline currently controlled by Turkish Cypriots, respect traditional Turkish Cypriot villages, and take into account the distribution of water resources, and that Ercan Airport be left in the area under Turkish Cypriot administration.

The set of ideas also addressed the situation of some 160,000 Greek Cypriots and 45,000 Turkish Cypriots displaced as a result of the 1974 events.

Mr. Denktash accepted the principle of the right to return and the right to property, provided that they took account of the practical difficulties of the Turkish Cypriot side. However, he envisaged a long list of categories of Turkish Cypriots currently residing in the former homes of Greek Cypriots who, in his view, should not be obliged to vacate those properties in favour of a returning proprietor. Instead, the latter would be compensated.

For his part, President Vassiliou insisted on the principle of the right of return and the right to property, while recognizing the need to resolve the practical difficulties faced by Turkish Cypriots. He opposed any massive confiscation of the properties of displaced persons. He stated that the property owned by Greek Cypriots in the area that, under the suggested territorial adjustments, would make up the Turkish Cypriot federated State was twice that of the properties of Turkish Cypriots in the area that would form the Greek Cypriot federated State. He added that the ratio between the respective 1974 values of these Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot properties was 8:1. He was opposed to the concept of "zeroing out" of the properties of displaced persons and attached importance to the option of long-term leasing and other commercial arrangements, a provision Mr. Denktash also agreed to consider.

The Secretary-General asserted that reasonable arrangements regarding displaced persons had been outlined in the set of ideas.

Stressing that continuation of the status quo in Cyprus was not a viable option, he said the international community should expect the two leaders to manifest the necessary political will so that talks in October would result in an overall agreement.

UNFICYP

The Secretary-General said on 21 September that the patience of troop-contributing countries—Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom—to the 2,141-strong United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) "has run out" and the Force in its present form would "shortly become unviable" unless the Security Council decided to change the basis of UNFICYP's financing from voluntary to assessed contributions.

If current talks failed, UNFICYP's future would have to be examined in light of the alternative courses of action that the Council might decide to resolve the Cyprus problem, he said.

Some of the troop contributors had communicated to the UN Secretariat their plans for withdrawing or reducing their contingents. ■

Council expresses 'utmost concern' over wide-scale fighting in Kabul

Security Council members, in a 12 August statement, expressed "utmost concern" over the wide-scale fighting which had broken out in Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul, resulting in heavy loss of life and property, "including to foreign missions and their personnel".

Council members urged the Afghan Government to "take every measure to ensure the safety and security of all diplomatic and international missions", and called upon all those involved to cease the hostilities and establish the necessary conditions for the safe evacuation of foreign personnel.

On 10 August, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali noted with concern that fighting in Kabul had intensified in recent days and was extracting a high toll in lives and property. "It is highly regrettable that after 14 years of war in that devastated country, the people of Afghanistan are still experiencing death, destruction and suffering", he said.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali called upon all parties involved to exercise restraint. They must lay down their arms and begin a dialogue at once to bring peace and security to their war-torn country. If the UN was to continue its humanitarian and other operations in Afghanistan, the safety and protection of UN personnel, property and premises should be assured. Governments of neighbouring countries and concerned regional organizations should use their influence in helping to end "this tragedy", he added.

UN Photo 179/26U Isaac

The Secretary-General has called for Afghans to lay down their arms and begin a dialogue to bring peace to their country.

In a 14 August statement, the Secretary-General noted that the fighting had escalated even further, with heavy loss of life among the unarmed civilian population. He again appealed for maximum restraint and for a dialogue that would lead to a peaceful solution.

On 25 September, the foreign ministers of the Council's five permanent members supported the Secretary-General's efforts in securing a peaceful transition of power in Afghanistan. The support was voiced by Qian Qichen of China, Roland Dumas of France, Andrei V. Kozyrev of the Russian Federation, Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom (representing Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd) and Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Acting Secretary of State of the United States, in a statement issued following a meeting with Mr. Boutros-Ghali.

Afghanistan President Burhanuddin Rabbani asked Mr. Boutros-Ghali to mobilize international humanitarian assistance for the Afghan people. The Secretary-General said a UN inter-agency team was assessing additional requirements for assistance.

On 7 August, Sotirios G. Mousouris was named as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan, succeeding Benon Sevan.

Refugee repatriation: In record numbers

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced on 15 July in Geneva that a record number of Afghans had recently returned home from Pakistan as part of the largest and fastest UNHCR-assisted repatriation programme.

In the week ending 12 July, some 100,000 Afghans crossed the border from Pakistan at a rate of 15,000 a day, bringing to nearly 600,000 the number of Afghans returning home since the beginning of 1992, it was announced. According to UNHCR, "the mad rush to the border triggered by the fall of the Najibullah government in late April shows no sign of abating despite a severe shortage of funds to help the Afghan returnees start a new life in their war-torn country". ■

Ethnic conflicts draw UN fact-finding efforts in former Soviet republics

With the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the outbreak of violent ethnic conflicts in several of its former republics, the UN has become actively involved in mediation and fact-finding efforts in the new nations of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Tajikistan. Following is an overview of some recent developments.

Nagorno-Karabakh

Despite the 19 September cease-fire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the situation in Nargorno-Karabakh—an enclave in Azerbaijan with a mostly Armenian population—remains serious.

Deep concern had been expressed by the Security Council on 26 August over reports of heavy loss of human life and widespread material damage.

Council members strongly appealed to all parties and others concerned for an immediate cease-fire. They supported the efforts of an international conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, to be held in Minsk, Belarus, within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), as well as ongoing preparatory negotiations in Rome.

Noting that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had dispatched fact-finding missions to the region and was ready to send observers to the CSCE negotiations, Council members said they would consider further the UN role in Nagorno-Karabakh "at an appropriate time", in light of the development of the situation in the area.

A UN mission sent to the region from 4 to 10 July found no evidence of the use of chemical weapons by Armenia, as claimed by Azerbaijan.

In a 25 September statement, the Council's five permanent members—China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States—supported the Secretary-General's efforts regarding Nagorno-Karabakh.

Georgia-Abkhazia

A UN mission of good offices was sent to Georgia from 12 to 20 September to study the situation in Abkhazia—an autonomous republic on the Black Sea where ethnic Abkhaz account for 18 per cent of its population—which had declared its own "sovereignty", claiming that it was not part of the independent Republic of Georgia.

Fierce fighting between the Abkhaz separatists and the Georgian troops took place on 14 August, with some 200 dead and hundreds wounded.

A 3 September peace agreement—reached in Moscow by President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation, Eduard Shevardnadze, President of the Georgian State Council, and agreed to by the leaders of Abkhazia—reaffirmed the territorial integrity of Georgia and provided for a cease-fire.

Moldova

The conflict in Moldova's Transdniester region had been at the centre of "peaceful settlement efforts" by the Governments of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the Secretary-General reported on 11 September *(A/47/1)*.

A 21 July agreement, signed by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and President Yeltsin, provided for the establishment of a trilateral peace-keeping force, with battalions from Moldova, Russia and the Transdniester region to monitor the cease-fire.

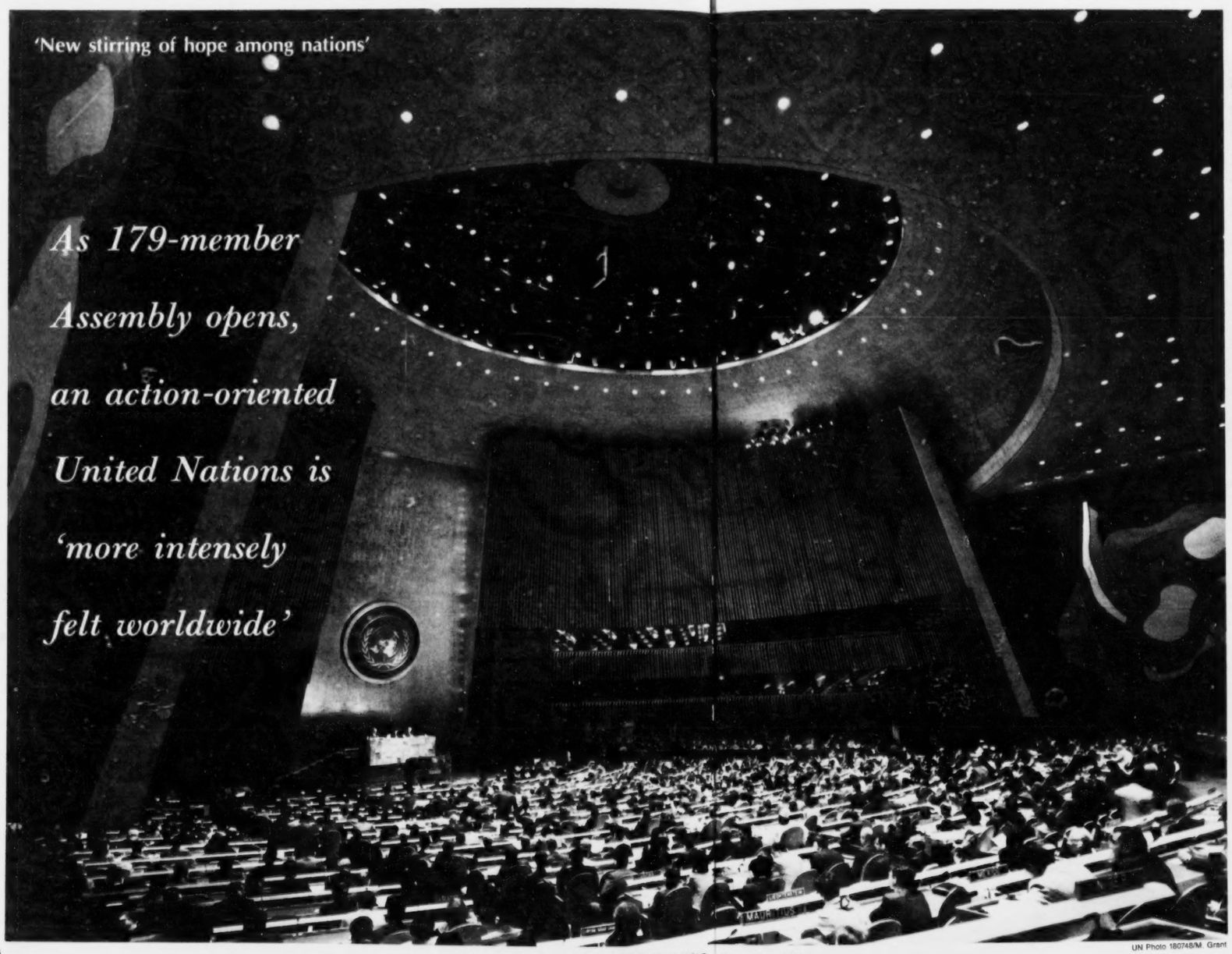
President Snegur also stated that the Slav-dominated region, where ethnic Russians and Ukrainians account for some 53 per cent of the population, could decide its own fate should newly-independent Moldova reunite with Romania. Moldova had been part of Romania before being incorporated in 1940 into the Soviet Union. The Dniester region had been an autonomous republic in Ukraine.

A UN fact-finding mission sent to Moldova from 25 to 29 August found the situation "greatly improved". The escalation of violence had been "reversed", it said, and the parties to the conflict had been cooperating in the implementation of most provisions of the 21 July agreement.

However, the Secretary-General in his report warned that the "prevailing conditions remain fragile and could rapidly deteriorate if negotiations towards an overall settlement do not progress more quickly".

Tajikistan

The conflict in Tajikistan—a newly-independent State in Central Asia—is the result of an uprising against acting President Akbarshah Iskandarov by supporters of the republic's former Communist leader, Rakhman Nabiyev, who said they oppose Islamic fundamentalism and want to build a secular State. A UN fact-finding mission visited Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in Central Asia from 13 to 23 September. ■


'New stirring of hope among nations'
As 179-member Assembly opens, an action-oriented United Nations is 'more intensely felt worldwide'

UN Photo 180748/M. Grant

"The presence of the Organization is being more intensely felt worldwide as it helps people in danger, need or despair", UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asserted as the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly got under way on 15 September in New York.

"Never before in its history has the United Nations been so action-oriented, so actively engaged, and so widely expected to respond to needs both immediate and pervasive", the Egyptian-born UN chief executive, who took office on 1 January 1992, stated. His report on the work of the Organization *(A/47/1)*, reflected the near-universal concern of a membership which had increased by 20 in the 10 months between 17 September 1991 and 31 July 1992, when the former Soviet republic of Georgia became the 179th UN Member State.

At the outset of his tenure, Mr. Boutros-Ghali maintained it was possible to sense "a new stirring of hope among the nations of the

UN Photo 180749/M. Grant

Passing the gavel.

world and a recognition that an immense opportunity is here to be seized''. Not since the end of the Second World War, he said, had ''the expectations of the world's peoples depended so much upon the capacity of the United Nations for widely supported and effective action''.

A 'new chapter'

With ''the end of the bipolar era and the opening of a new chapter in history'', States once again saw the UN as ''an instrument capable of maintaining international peace and security, of advancing justice and human rights, and of achieving, in the words of the Charter, 'social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom'''.

However, he went on, the transition from the old to the new UN was neither easy nor risk-free. As the international community looked towards days filled with promise, it must also be prepared to deal with uncertainty.

''The departure of one set of global problems has been followed by the emergence of a multitude of others'', he said. But a better world was within reach in 1992. It was time, he concluded, ''to move forward deliberately and conscientiously towards the realization of the vast potential of this unique Organization and to bring new life to the world of the Charter''.

Peace Endowment Fund

In his report, Mr. Boutros-Ghali proposed the establishment of a $1-billion peace endowment fund to finance the initial cost of authorized peace-keeping operations and a levy on arms sales and international air travel.

The proposals were presented in the face of the ever-deepening financial crisis of the UN and to ensure that the Organization was fully prepared to respond to new challenges of international action. The Fund should combine the assessed and voluntary contributions from Governments, the private sector and individuals. A tax on arms sales would help maintain a UN arms register, while an international air travel tax was justified because secure air travel depended largely on the maintenance of peace, the Secretary-General indicated.

Other proposals would authorize the UN to borrow from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and allow a general tax exemption for contributions made to the UN by foundations, businesses and individuals.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also supported previous proposals that interest be charged on Member States' assessed contributions not paid on time and that the Secretary-General be allowed to borrow commercially, should other sources of cash be inadequate.

'Unique historic transformation'

Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia, President of the forty-sixth General Assembly, passed the gavel on 15 September to the new President, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev, who had been elected by acclamation at the opening of the forty-seventh Assembly session.

After his election, President Ganev told the Assembly that in recent years, a ''unique historic transformation'' had been witnessed in different parts of the world, which clearly outlined ''a common tendency of enhancing democracy, freedom, rule of law and respect for human rights''. Overcoming East-West confrontation and ideological rivalry had created better conditions for common action on regional and global levels.

However, the international community faced serious challenges and difficult problems which posed

potential threats to world peace and security. Millions of people continued to suffer the ravages of war. Progress towards peaceful settlement of long-standing regional disputes had not yet relieved mankind from the terror of armed conflicts.

Economic recession, social tensions, nationalism, racial and religious intolerance, ethnic hostilities and gross human rights violations remained threats to national and international stability, he said.

On 18 September, Mr. Ganev told the press in New York that there was every reason to hope that the forty-seventh Assembly session would prove to be a major step towards revitalizing the UN as "an effective and user-friendly international mechanism of peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building".

End of 46th session

As the forty-sixth General Assembly ended on 14 September, then Assembly President Shihabi told delegates:

"Recent events that followed each other during the last 12 months have changed the trends of history, in the second half of the twentieth century, probably the trend of history for a long time to come." The past 12 months had witnessed the beginning of the post-cold-war era. "At this delicate stage", the UN stood "on the crossroads of history to play its role".

The Assembly, he continued, should strongly guard its role in accordance with what the UN Charter had bestowed upon it, because any "short-sighted attempt" to affect that role would result in a weakening of the whole international organization system. It would be the shortest way to marginalize the role of the UN system as a whole, he said.

On 14 September, he told the press that he favoured formation of a council of former Assembly Presidents to support the Assembly as the UN's central organ.

Because the Office of the Assembly President remained mostly dependent on the support of the President's own Government, it had a transitional nature, he said, lacking the institutional elements needed for it to play the full role envisaged by UN members—"a major factor that could lead to the weakening of the General Assembly, the principal organ of the Organization".

New items

The agenda of the forty-seventh Assembly includes 148 items—10 less than the record 158 considered in 1989. There were 54 items to be considered directly in plenary, including 4 of the 8 new items on the agenda: observer status in the Assembly for the International Organization for Migration; complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territories of the Baltic States; coordination of the activities of the UN and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe; and emergency assistance to Pakistan and to the Philippines.

Of the other four new items, the question of a disarmament regime for Latin America and the Caribbean was assigned to the First Committee; two items—emergency assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan and assistance to Croatia—went to the Second Committee; and one—financing of the UN Operation in Somalia—was to be considered by the Fifth Committee.

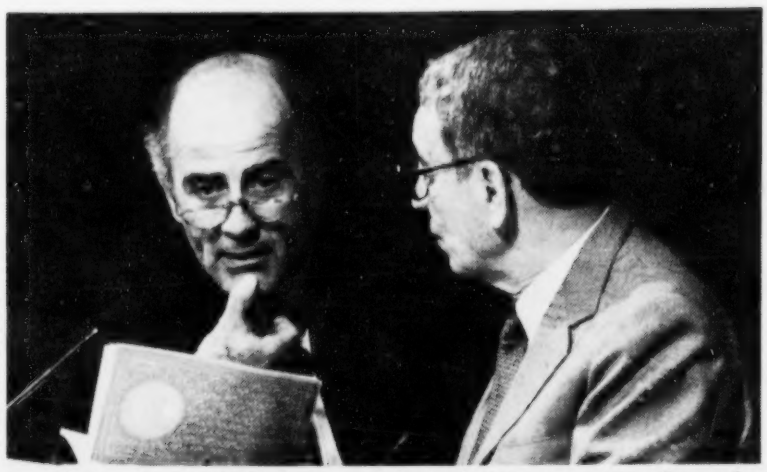
Not a propaganda forum

Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Vladimir Petrovsky told the press in New York on 15 September that the Assembly was "no longer a venue for political propaganda, but the most effective multilateral forum for constructive and action-oriented consideration of all items . . . and for working on the basis of consensus".

He said the forty-seventh session would be one of the most significant sessions in UN history, because it was being held "in a totally new political climate", one where all principal bodies of the

UN Photo 181086/E. Debebe

Assembly President Ganev *(right)* greets Eduard Shevardnadze, Chairman of the State Council of Georgia, which on 31 July became the 179th UN Member State.



UN Photo 181382/J. Isaac

Alvaro de Soto *(left)*, senior political adviser to Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali *(right)*, conferring at the podium in the Assembly Hall.

UN could play the roles intended for them by the Charter. That was especially true for the Assembly, which was "the unique, universal body" in the UN system.

Mr. Petrovsky said the current session was being entrusted to determining how best the Assembly could be used for maintaining peace and security. It was expected to address issues of economic and social development in the post-cold-war era, he added, when also the question of disarmament had been recognized as a constituent of an international security agenda, which had a close and mutually supportive relationship with other activities in collective security. In a changing world, the Assembly should also focus on the issue of sustainable development to make the UN serve the interests of the international community.

Mr. Petrovsky pointed out that the UN was owed $1.8 billion in unpaid dues for both the regular budget and peace-keeping operations.

"The United Nations is mandated to make peace, but not to print money", he stated, and emphasized that financial problems became its "top political problems" and should be seriously addressed by all Member States. Otherwise, there was a danger that the UN could become a victim of its own popularity.

As all UN activities should be action-oriented, consideration was being given to a review of the structure and mandates of the Assembly's Main Committees, including the possibility of merging the mandates of some Committees or changing their responsibilities.

Highlights

The Assembly's plenary is to review and act on a wide variety of topics, including the Middle East, Central America, Cambodia, southern Africa and the consequences of Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait.

The Assembly was expected to adopt a resolution commending the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction that was adopted in Geneva by the Conference on Disarmament, and recommending its opening for signature with the formal signing ceremony envisaged to take place in Paris, probably in January 1993. The new Convention creates the most extensive verification mechanism ever included in an international disarmament convention.

The Assembly is also expected to decide to hold a World Summit on Social Development in 1995 and establish a Sustainable Development Commission to assess national environment policies and implementation of "Agenda 21", the international plan adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in June.

The Assembly is expected to adopt a set of principles, developed over 13 years of debate in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, containing goals and guidelines to ensure the safe use of nuclear power sources in outer space, to be known as the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

The forty-seventh Assembly is

UN Photo 181047/J. Isaac

Indonesian first lady, Mrs. Soeharto *(third from left)*, with Mrs. Lea Boutros-Ghali *(fourth from left)* at an Assembly session.

scheduled to recess on 18 December and officially conclude on 20 September 1993.

Among the 167 participants in the general debate—a record number—were 24 Heads of State, 1 Vice-President, 13 Prime Ministers, 10 Deputy Prime Ministers, 103 Foreign Ministers and 16 Chairmen of delegations. The annual exercise took place between 21 September and 8 October.

On 25 September, the Foreign Ministers of the five permanent members of the Security Council issued a statement following a meeting with the Secretary-General, which reviewed the Organization's priorities over the past year.

In the statement, Qian Qichen of China, Roland Dumas of France, Andrei V. Kozyrev of the Russian Federation, Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom (representing Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd) and Acting Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger of the United States pledged support for the Secretary-General's "Agenda For Peace" report, issued on 23 June *(A/47/277-S/24111)*.

The Agenda, a multi-faceted plan to enable the UN to take up a wider mission in the pursuit and preservation of world peace, features many novel proposals designed to hone the UN's ability to identify conflicts, bring about their short-term and long-term resolution, and foster peace among former adversaries.

Yugoslavia

On 22 September, the Assembly decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (consisting of Serbia and Montenegro) could not automatically continue the UN membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and that it should apply for membership and "shall not" participate in the Assembly's work.

Resolution 47/1 was adopted by a recorded vote of 127 to 6 (Kenya, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe), with 26 abstentions.

The Assembly's action marked the first time it has explicitly decided that a Member State may not participate in its work. In 1974, the Assembly upheld a ruling by its President, interpreting the Assembly's rejection of South Africa's credentials, which had the effect of barring South African representatives from participating in the work of that session.

Before the vote, Milan Panic, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, said his Government was pursuing a programme of peace and needed the Assembly's understanding and help. From the first day that the new Government of Yugoslavia had been formed two months ago, it had cooperated with the UN in every way and would continue to do so regardless of the action taken by the Assembly. He formally requested membership in the UN on behalf of "the new Yugoslavia".

Introducing the draft resolution, Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom said the Council on 19 September had recommended the action in line with UN Charter procedures on membership questions. The Council, which would consider the matter again before the end of the year, had adopted resolution 777 (1992) by a vote of 12 to none, with 3 abstentions (China, India, Zimbabwe).

Conditions for admission were clear, he went on. The applicant must be a peace-loving State, it must accept obligations contained in the Charter and it must, in the Organization's judgement, be able and willing to carry out those obligations. The authorities in Belgrade should convince the UN that they have met those admission requirements. The resolution was neither a punitive measure nor was it designed to undermine the peace process.

In debate, a number of speakers questioned the resolution's legal basis, stating that it bypassed the Charter, set a dangerous precedent which could be used against other Member States in the future, and posed a threat to ongoing peace negotiations.

On 21 September, President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina proposed a constitutional commission made up of inter-ethnic and inter-religious representatives and international experts to develop a constitutional settlement to the conflict in his country.

UN Photo 180615/M. Grant

New Yugoslavia Prime Minister Milan Panic *(right)* appealed for the Assembly's help and understanding.

General Assembly opens

UN Photo 180767/M. Grant

Laying a wreath in memory of Dag Hammarskjold.

Addressing the Assembly, he called for an end to the arms embargo against his country and said that if the international community chose to side-step its commitment to defend Bosnia and Herzegovina, the country should be allowed to defend itself. It was not possible to draw lines through the republic to designate ethnically pure regions. The people of Bosnia and Herzegovina could live together, and must live together, provided that equality, justice and freedom were secured for all.

On 15 September, in observance of the eleventh International Day of Peace, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali said that the international community must continue its quest for peace with patience and determination until it met with success. The "brave men and women" of the UN peace-keeping forces in strife-ridden parts of the world had earned the respect and gratitude of the UN and the entire international community.

Cooperation rather than confrontation should be the motto of nations as they prepared to enter the twenty-first century. Violence was self-defeating and war "utterly futile". In today's world, there were no victors and no vanquished—only suffering human beings on both sides, he said.

If tolerance, understanding and respect for other cultures, religions and ethnic groups were inculcated in young people, it would "pay vast dividends by way of a more peaceful, harmonious and stable world". ■

Committee Highlights

FIRST COMMITTEE
Disarmament

The Committee will review 21 major items and some 30 sub-items, ranging from reduction of military budgets to prevention of an arms race in outer space. Deliberations are expected to focus on the continuing spread of technologies of mass destruction and the need to find a balance between self-defence and acceleration of conventional arms supply.

UN Photo

First Committee Chairman Nabil Elaraby of Egypt

The Committee will recommend that the Assembly commend the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.

The Committee will also consider the so-called extension conference for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which provides for such a meeting in 1995 "to decide whether the Treaty shall continue in force indefinitely or shall be extended for an additional fixed period or periods". Ongoing consultations are expected on making the nuclear-test-ban treaty more comprehensive.

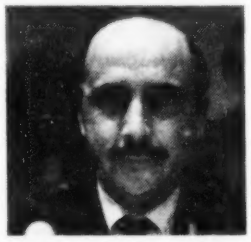
New approaches to implementing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean will be explored.

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

The Committee is expected to recommend for adoption the draft Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

It also will review a variety of politically sensitive topics, with UN peace-keeping operations figuring prominently on its agenda. To be considered are two reports on peacekeeping operations: one containing recommendations to strengthen such operations *(A/47/253)* and another *(A/47/386)* detailing discussions at a 17 August meeting which focused on the Secretary-General's recommendations in "An Agenda for Peace".

A consensus on questions relating to information is expected. Other items to be considered deal with effects of atomic radiation, peaceful uses of outer space, assistance to Palestinian refugees, and Israeli practices affecting the human rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Petitioners will be heard regarding South Africa's apartheid policies.



UN Photo

Special Political Committee Chairman Hamadi Khouini of Tunisia

SECOND COMMITTEE
Economic issues

The follow-up to the UNCED in Rio will be highlighted in the Committee, although debate will take place in the plenary.

A wide range of development issues, including operational activities, will be considered. These include: the external debt crisis, international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, trade and development, and net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries. Special humanitarian and disaster relief assistance are also of critical concern.

UN Photo

Second Committee Chairman Ramiro Piriz-Ballon of Uruguay

THIRD COMMITTEE
Social matters

The Committee has the most varied and longest agenda of any Main Committee, with a pot-pourri of items relating to social, humanitarian and cultural questions. This year, one focus will be refugees, in view of the fact that some 3 million new refugees have brought the world's total refugee population to 18 million as a result of the Yugoslav conflict. A new declaration on minority rights is expected to be adopted.

UN Photo

Third Committee Chairman Florian Krenkel of Austria

Other issues before the Committee deal with self-determination, racism and racial discrimination, drugs, women, youth, mercenaries, the family, the disabled, the ageing, crime prevention and criminal justice, and human rights, with situations in certain countries to be considered.

FOURTH COMMITTEE
Decolonization

The Committee has the shortest list of agenda items of all Committees—seven, including the status of the remaining Non-Self-Governing territories, implementation of the 1960 Declaration on decolonization, and activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the Declaration's implementation and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa.

UN Photo

Fourth Committee Chairman Guillermo Melendez-Barahona of El Salvador

The question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) will be considered directly in plenary, on the understanding that statements can be heard in Committee as well.

FIFTH COMMITTEE
Budget

The Committee has a full agenda of administrative and budgetary matters. One major issue concerns the restructuring process of the UN Secretariat. Proposals to remedy UN cash-flow problems will also be discussed, with main areas of concern being the UN's ability to function over the longer term and immediate requirements to respond to any crisis.

UN Photo

Fifth Committee Chairman Marian-George Dinu of Romania

The Secretary-General's proposed programme-budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995 will be considered, as well as revisions to the medium-term plan for 1992-1997.

SIXTH COMMITTEE
Legal

In reviewing the work of the International Law Commission, the Committee will consider establishment of an international criminal court to try individuals for crimes against the peace and security of mankind. A set of draft articles prepared by the Commission on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, to be a basis for elaborating an international convention, is under review.

A report on the UN Decade of International Law (1990-1999) will be made, as will a report on diplomatic security.

The question on whether existing law on protection of the environment in times of armed conflict is adequate will also be addressed. Other important legal questions relate to the Special Committee on the UN Charter, cooperation between the UN and regional organizations, and assistance to third States affected by sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter.

UN Photo

Sixth Committee Chairman Javad Zarif of Iran

The Youngest President

UN Photo 180009/M. Tzovaras

Assembly President Ganev *(centre)* on the dais with Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali *(left)* and Under-Secretary-General Petrovsky.

Stoyan Ganev, elected President of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly on 15 September, is the youngest person to hold that office. Since 8 November 1991, he has served as Foreign Minister in Bulgaria's first non-communist cabinet in 47 years. Until July, he was also Deputy Prime Minister.

Born in Pazardjik, Bulgaria, on 23 July 1955, Mr. Ganev graduated from Sofia University's Faculty of Law in 1979 and defended a thesis on constitutional law at Moscow University in 1985. He has been a lecturer at the Sofia University and at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Germany.

Mr. Ganev supports an enhancement of the UN role for consolidating world peace and security and for making it more effective in finding solutions to political, socio-economic, environmental and other problems.

As Foreign Minister, while visiting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters in Brussels in November 1991, Mr. Ganev launched the idea of convening a tripartite meeting of Foreign Ministers of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey.

He is Chairman of a coordinating body on Bulgaria's accession to the Council on Europe and is his Government's chief envoy in the negotiations on his country's association with the European Community.

In December 1991, at the inaugural session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in Brussels, he proposed for the meeting's concluding document items on the need for assistance to achieve economic reforms in Eastern Europe and on the importance of regional security structures as an element in overall European security. ■

A crucial role . . .

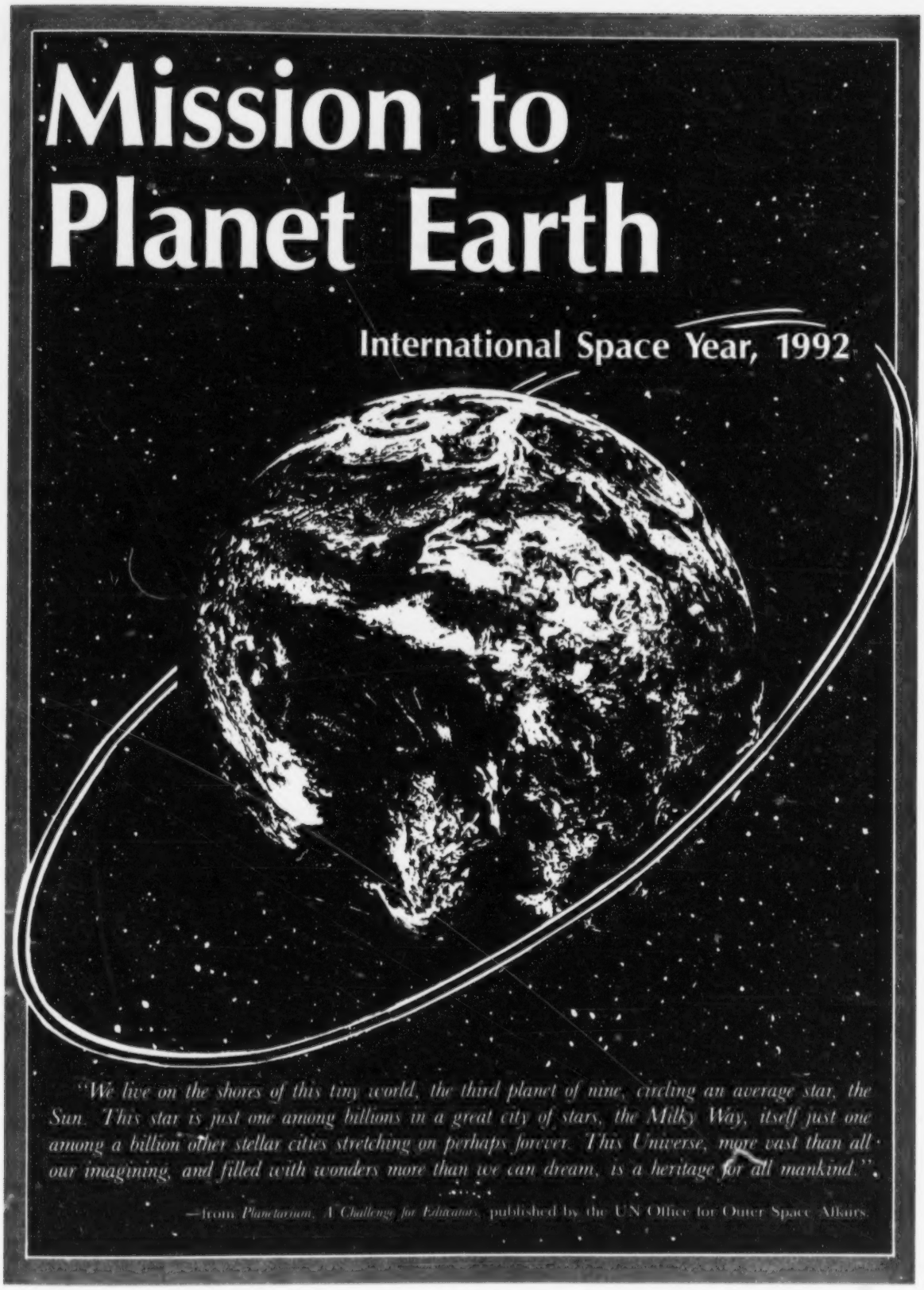
Forty-seven years of the United Nations existence have proven its crucial role in maintaining peace and security, developing friendly relations between nations, and fostering favourable conditions for cooperation among its Member States.

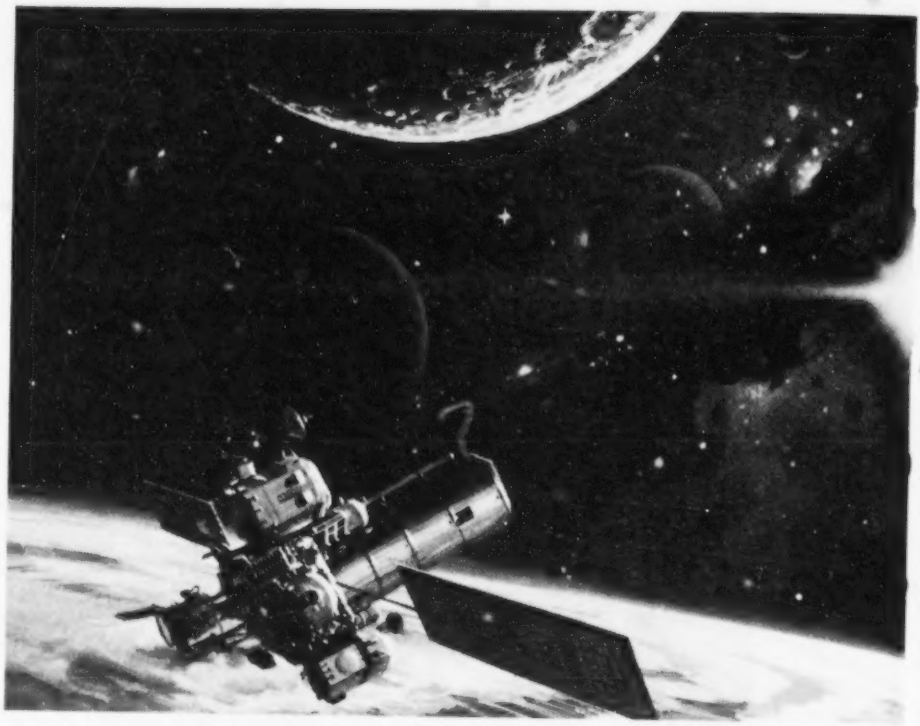
The changed global political environment poses new requirements on the United Nations to most effectively use the potential of its Charter. The world economy presently is undergoing serious difficulties. The population in less developed countries must be saved from hunger and illiteracy, and basic health care should be ensured.

Economic and social cooperation, facilitating full integration of developing countries, and those in transition, into the world economy, continues to be one of the principal tasks of the United Nations. Primary consideration should be given to stabilization of the world economy and liberalization of global trade and financial systems.

The United Nations should increasingly take into account the non-military factors of security which are equally capable of generating tensions and warfare. Problems of population growth, crushing debt burdens, continuing trade barriers and drugs trafficking require ceaseless attention and high priority in the efforts of the United Nations.

—President Ganev, 15 September 1992


Mission to
Planet Earth
International Space Year, 1992
"We live on the shores of this tiny world, the third planet of nine, circling an average star, the Sun. This star is just one among billions in a great city of stars, the Milky Way, itself just one among a billion other stellar cities stretching on perhaps forever. This Universe, more vast than all our imagining, and filled with wonders more than we can dream, is a heritage for all mankind.".
—from Planetarium, A Challenge for Educators, published by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs.



Since the dawn of civilization, peoples in every land have reached for the heavens. From Canada to Kenya, Peru to Cambodia, Great Britain to China, rings of stone point sunward and ancient buildings align with the stars. The first humans embraced the sky in legend and myth: African bushmen saw the Milky Way as the backbone of night; to the Inca, it was a river of light and life.

Only in this century has the outer space of myth and imagination become a part of our modern reality. Indeed, 1992 is the thirty-fifth anniversary of the birth of the space age: in 1957, the first man-made satellite—Sputnik I—was launched by the former Soviet Union during the International Geophysical Year, which highlighted scientific inquiry and international cooperation.

It was to recognize this milestone, as well as the 500th anniversary of terrestrial explorer Christopher Columbus' voyage to the "New World", that United States Senator Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii proposed in the summer of 1985 that an International Space Year (ISY) of globally coordinated activities be held in 1992 to constitute the first year-long, worldwide celebration of humanity's future in the new space age.

In 1988, during a meeting sponsored by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Durham, New Hampshire, the proposal for ISY was officially endorsed by senior officials from 18 national and international space agencies. The gathering also unanimously adopted "Mission to Planet Earth" as the Year's theme.

A total of 29 national space agencies subsequently undertook in a global effort to coordinate the Year's activities, joined by 10 international organizations, including the UN and the International Council of Scientific Unions, as well as hundreds of non-governmental organizations, such as the International Astronautical Federation, founded in 1950 and the oldest association of national societies, institutions and industrial companies dealing with outer space.

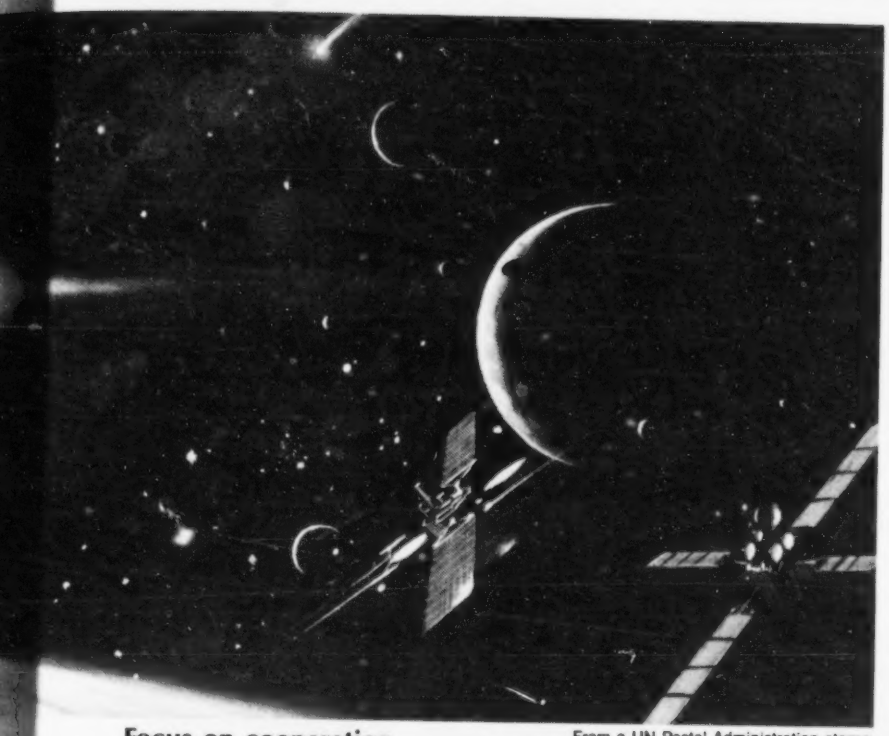
Our 'blue planet'

"One of the central goals of International Space Year is to highlight the importance of understanding the Earth as a single, complex, interdependent system and to stress the unique role that space science and technology can play in promoting that understanding", said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a message on 28 August in Washington, D. C. to the World Space Congress, a key event of the Year.

The swirling, cloud-covered image from space of our "blue planet" has become the icon of the environmental movement. Modern space technologies provide ever more intricate views: sophisticated space-borne sensors can obtain invaluable data on the Earth's environment, including weather, climate change, natural resources and land use. Satellites can help guide traffic, transmit telephone calls and television broadcasts, monitor crises and verify compliance with disarmament agreements.

"I can see no better use to be made of the rapid advances in space science and technology than for such impressive technology to be used for the protection of our home and our environment", said Peter Hohenfeller of Austria, Chairman of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space—the primary international policy-making forum on space affairs—during its thirty-fifth session in June, which commemorated ISY.

The Year provides an opportunity "to expand our thinking and reflect, in as wide a manner as possible, on the many ways in which we can improve and expand international cooperation in outer space for the economic and social betterment of all", he stated.



From a UN Postal Administration stamp. Artwork by Attila Hejja. Design by Rocco J. Callari.

Focus on cooperation

The General Assembly on 8 December 1989 endorsed the initiatives to designate 1992 as International Space Year, deciding that the Year should promote international cooperation in outer space activities.

In particular, the UN saw the need for education and information exchange on space technologies, particularly between developed space-faring nations and developing countries.

"The remarkable developments in the application of space technology to solving major world problems stand out as the most significant achievement of this century", said Professor U. R. Rao, head of the Indian Space Research Organization, at the Outer Space Committee's meeting in June.

However, he added: "While space has already initiated a transformation of human society as a whole, many of the developing societies have yet to take advantage of the space revolution."

The UN has been involved in space affairs since 1958, when it created the Outer Space Committee to encourage the peaceful uses of outer space. It has since held two global congresses—UNISPACE I in 1968 and UNISPACE II in 1982, both in Vienna—which highlighted the increasing practical benefits of space activities and the need for international cooperation, especially between space powers and developing countries in space research technology.

"ISY has come at an opportune time", Nandasiri Jasentuliyana, Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, has said. "The cold war has just ended, thereby presenting a window of opportunity for the UN and the international community to foster the use of space for more meaningful applications for human development."

The 26 ISY projects undertaken by the Space Applications Programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, including international and regional training courses, conferences, seminars and workshops, focus on communications for development, bridging the information gap, data analysis and the use of space technology for sustainable resources development, environmental management, disaster relief and other needs of developing countries.

Says Adigun Abiodun, UN Expert on Space Applications: "It is hoped that these UN-ISY activities will encourage all countries, particularly the developing countries, not only to participate in the applications of space technology, but also to undertake programmes which would contribute to the understanding and the safeguarding of the global environment to solve local transnational environmental problems, to attempt to minimize the effects of violent meteorological events, to manage and to rationally exploit the Earth's natural resources, and to develop technologies to meet local needs."

Space for a new era

International Space Year is also an important measure of the transition taking place in international relations.

"Space programmes that have focused much of their economic and human resources on military and political competition can now provide leadership in demonstrating the uses of advanced technology for broad international cooperation", says Vladimir Petrovsky, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

The international group of ISY organizers, known as the Space Agency Forum on ISY (SAFISY), has supported and publicized dozens of cooperative international space research and education programmes, in conjunction with the Year. The projects are divided among three major topics: Earth science; space science; and education.

The 13 Earth science projects use space technologies to assess the environment, while the space science projects highlight perspectives from space, and an international educational campaign stresses the benefits of space technologies, which are not only peaceful but also vital to the future well-being of the Earth. ■

The UN and Outer Space: Cooperation for a New Age

The United Nations has promoted and facilitated international cooperation and peace in the exploration and utilization of outer space since mankind's first forays into the "final frontier".

In fact, barely had "Sputnik" returned to Earth from its historic 1957 orbit when the international community acted to establish a global forum to promote, negotiate, monitor and coordinate human activity in the extra-terrestrial realms.

In 1958, during its thirteenth session, the General Assembly included on its agenda an item on the peaceful uses of outer space and subsequently adopted resolution 1348 (XIII), stressing the need for international and scientific cooperation in that field. The Assembly also established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was transformed (resolution 1472 (XIV)) in 1959 into a permanent body—the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Its membership was expanded from 18 to 24 States to provide a politically balanced composition and has since grown to 53 States.

"Some 35 years ago, when the space age was still in its infancy, the United Nations readily assumed the task of promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space", said Committee Chairman Peter Hohenfellner at the body's 1992 session. "In these past three and a half decades, its commitment to the goal of continuously strengthening and expanding such cooperation has never wavered."

The Committee and its two subsidiary bodies—the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee—meet annually to review international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, consider the feasibility of programmes that could be undertaken in that area, and study legal problems that might arise from the exploration and use of outer space.

Working on the basis of consensus, the Committee makes recommendations to the Assembly. The UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, formerly the Outer Space Affairs Division, headquartered in New York, implements those decisions.

UN Photo 97444

The Outer Space Treaty is signed in Washington, D. C. on 27 January 1967. USSR Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin *(left)* signs the Convention, while United States President Lyndon B. Johnson *(right)* and other dignitaries look on.

The Committee has helped to elaborate several major international treaties, including the definitive 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies—known as the Outer Space Treaty—which celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1992. Indeed, notes one legal scholar, the Committee deserves "a lion's share of the credit" for what appears to be a remarkable track record of treaty-making accomplishments related to outer space.

In addition, the Committee has elaborated principles on direct telecommunications broadcasting and remote sensing of the Earth from space. Most recently, it recommended the adoption by the Assembly of a set of principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, which were developed over 13 years of debate.

"In the development of laws and principles, through its consensus process, which has ensured that treaties drafted in the UN were acceptable not only to the majority of non-space powers, but also to all the space powers, the Committee has provided an international forum for technical experts, diplomats and legal scholars to formulate a generally accepted legal framework for space activities", said Office for Outer Space Affairs Director Jasentuliyana.

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee concentrates on promoting the practical uses of space technology, particularly in developing countries where it has fostered hundreds of information, education and training programmes.

This year, for example, it recommended a number of workshops, training courses, seminars and conferences for 1993, covering such issues as communications for

development, the use of space techniques for monitoring and control of desert environments, and space technology for sustainable development.

Those recommendations are implemented by the UN Programme on Space Applications, created within the Secretariat's Outer Space Division in 1971.

The Programme was designed to create Governments' awareness of the benefits that could be derived from space technology and encourage training and education programmes that would enable officials from developing countries to appreciate and use space applications for social and economic development.

UNISPACE II

Among the milestones marked during International Space Year is the tenth anniversary of the Second UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was convened in Vienna, Austria in 1982.

UNISPACE 82, as that Conference is known, aimed to encourage wider participation of Member States in outer space activities, assess new developments in space science and technology, and increase the benefits for all countries of that technology.

Conference negotiations, in which 94 States participated, resulted in some 140 recommendations to Governments, regional and international organizations, and UN bodies concerning all aspects of space activities from basic scientific research to commercial operations and from technical design to international cooperation.

One outcome was the expansion of the Space Applications Programme to include a number of new activities—funded by voluntary contributions—such as fellowships for advanced training, exchange programmes between countries and technical assistance to national and regional space programmes.

Training courses also began to be conducted several times each year on different aspects of space science and technology, and a variety of special meetings, workshops and seminars were held to promote greater exchange of experience and cooperation among developed and developing countries.

However, the Programme has yet to implement other recommendations, such as the creation of an international space information service, which has been stalled for lack of funding.

To evaluate the progress made and the areas in which more movement is needed, several countries have proposed that a third UNISPACE be convened in the mid-1990s. The Committee will consider these proposals at its 1993 session.

> "If I could summarize the legacy of the space age in a single word, it would be globalism."
>
> —Science fiction writer Isaac Asimov

Array of efforts

Many organizations and specialized agencies within the UN family incorporate and rely upon space technologies for their projects, particularly relating to environmental monitoring and economic development. In just a select handful of ongoing efforts by UN bodies:

• The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN has been in the forefront in applying space technologies since the establishment of its Remote Sensing Centre in Rome in 1980.

• The International Maritime Organization depends on satellite communications systems to aid navigation and provide distress alerts from ships as part of its global system for maritime search and rescue.

• The International Telecommunication Union provides technical expertise and other assistance in developing satellite communications systems.

• The UN Development Programme, which has funded hundreds of space applications projects since 1964, uses satellite imagery to report on and forecast the movement of desert locust swarms.

• The UN Disaster Relief Office is conducting field trials of a portable satellite transmitter, which would allow a relief officer on site in a disaster area to transmit detailed information about priority relief requirements.

• The UN Environment Programme, in cooperation with the UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), is using high-resolution satellite images to produce data for urban planning and management in cities in the developing world, such as Manila and Dar es Salaam.

• The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for over two decades has conducted projects in the use of space communications systems for education, information, culture and development.

• The World Health Organization uses satellite images to improve research and control of vector-borne diseases in tropical countries.

• The World Meteorological Organization, which has been tracking weather via satellite for the past 25 years through its World Weather Watch Programme, utilizes meterological satellites to provide warnings of tropical cyclones. ■

Legislating the 'Last Frontier'

Since the establishment of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1959, the UN has served as the primary body for formulating, negotiating and adopting legal principles for space-related activities. Committee negotiations have resulted in the adoption of five international conventions and three sets of principles relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.

Outer Space Treaty

The comprehensive Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies—known as the Outer Space Treaty—established the foundation of the international legal order in outer space.

It was adopted by General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI) on 13 December 1966 and entered into force in October 1967.

The basic elements of space law are encapsulated in the first three articles of this Treaty, which mandate the application of international law and the UN Charter to space activities, the recognition of a common interest for all humankind in space exploration and use of outer space, and the prohibition of territorial claims in outer space, making it *res communis* or the common province of humanity.

The Treaty forbids States to place into Earth orbit nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction, or to install military installations on celestial bodies. (The 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water prohibits nuclear testing in outer space.)

States must: regard astronauts as special international envoys and assist them in the event of an accident; bear liability for any damage caused by an object they launch into space; conduct space activities, including those on the Moon and other celestial bodies, so as to avoid harmful contamination to the Earth's environment; and inform the UN of the nature, conduct, location and results of such activities.

Rescue Agreement

The Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, adopted in 1967 on the eve of the first manned expeditions into space and landing on the moon, requires States to take all possible steps to rescue and assist an astronaut in case of an accident, distress, emergency or unintended landing.

The Agreement, which entered into force in 1968, includes provisions for the retrieval of space objects or their components that have landed in the territory of another State or jurisdiction.

If the object has created a hazardous condition, the launching authority shall take immediate steps to eliminate possible harm, with the removal of the object to be under the control of the territorial State. This provision was applied in 1978 when the Soviet Cosmos satellite disintegrated and spread radioactive debris over northern Canada.

Liability Convention

The 1971 Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, which entered into force in 1972, focuses on the risk that States must bear for space-related damage. Comprised of 28 articles, the Convention establishes a standard liability by the launching State for space-related activities that cause damage on the surface of the Earth, including on land, sea or in the air.

It also establishes a mechanism for settling disputes through a Claims Commission, which will hear a case and issue recommendations if settlement through diplomatic negotiations has not succeeded after one year from when the claim was brought.

Registration Convention

Establishing procedures for submitting information on space activities to the UN Secretary-General, the 1974 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, which entered into force in 1976, is the last international space treaty that States with space capability have signed.

Among the provisions are those incorporated by the States cooperating in the development of the International Space Station, Freedom: the United States, Canada and Member Governments of the European Space Agency. Each State will register its own module separately and shall retain jurisdiction and control over the objects it registers.

However, the Convention does not reconcile possible problems of denoting jurisdiction—such as other intellectual property or criminal activity—on a multinational space station.

The Moon Treaty

Although the 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies entered into force in 1984 and is, therefore, a valid international instrument, no State with any space capability has ratified and incorporated the Agreement into its national law. One of the reasons, according to the Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, is that the Treaty has set out principles for the development of a legal regime to manage exploitation of the Moon's resources.

The Moon Treaty also expands the concept of outer space being the province of mankind by declaring that, in particular, the Moon and all its natural resources are the "common heritage of mankind".

Direct broadcasting

The Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting were the first legal principles that the Outer Space Committee did not adopt by consensus, despite 14 years of work on the draft by its Legal Subcommittee.

The main impediments to consensus were issues such as a State's right to prior consent to direct broadcasting in its territory. Industrialized countries found prior consent a barrier to freedom of information. On the other hand, the former Soviet Union and most developing countries held that lack of control over direct broadcasting in their countries would amount to cultural imperialism.

Deadlocked by these positions, the Committee could not reach consensus and, instead, forwarded the set of principles, which generally favour the freedom-of-information point of view, to the General Assembly. They were adopted by a majority vote on 10 December 1982 *(resolution 37/92)*.

Remote sensing

In 1986, after 17 years of negotiations, the Outer Space Committee was able to reach consensus on a draft set of Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space. Adopted by the Assembly that same year, the Principles define remote sensing—sensing of the Earth's surface from space for the purpose of "improving natural resources management, land use and the protection of the environment"—and establish a foundation for international cooperation in the technology.

Nuclear power sources

The issue of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space was included in the Committee's agenda after Soviet Cosmos 954, which carried a small nuclear reactor, disintegrated over Canada's northern territory in 1978.

After 13 years of work, consensus was reached in June 1992 on the Draft Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. They were subsequently adopted by the forty-seventh General Assembly.

The Principles restrict the use of such sources in space to missions which could not be operated by non-nuclear energy sources and call for comprehensive safety assessments and notification of the imminent re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere of malfunctioning space objects with radioactive materials on board.

Space debris

An important issue to be resolved is the problem of space debris, which refers to all useless man-made objects in space, from large inactive satellites or burnt-out rockets to freely flying nuts and bolts, down to objects of a fraction of a millimetre, such as flakes of paint.

Estimates suggest that there are about 85,000 fragments larger than one centimetre cluttering outer space and threatening to collide with operational spacecraft.

Several delegations have proposed that space debris become an agenda item, and the Assembly in 1990 called for further international attention to the problem, as well as continued national research on the subject.

One of the specific topics of concern is the deliberate explosion of satellites as part of space weapons testing, which has been a major source of space debris.

Defining space

On another ongoing issue—the definition and delimitation of air space and outer space—the views are divided: that it is a practical and legal necessity to define the legal boundaries between the two and that there is no need for establishing a legal boundary, because it does not present any problems in the current exploration of outer space.

Geostationary orbit

Due to natural limitations of the geostationary orbit—the orbit 22,400 miles above the equator at which space-borne objects will remain stationary in relation to a particular location on the Earth—developing countries or countries which have not had the resources to place in orbit a communications satellite have called for a legal regime to regulate access.

Equitable access by all countries to the geostationary orbit was recently assured by regulations initiated through the International Telecommunications Union.

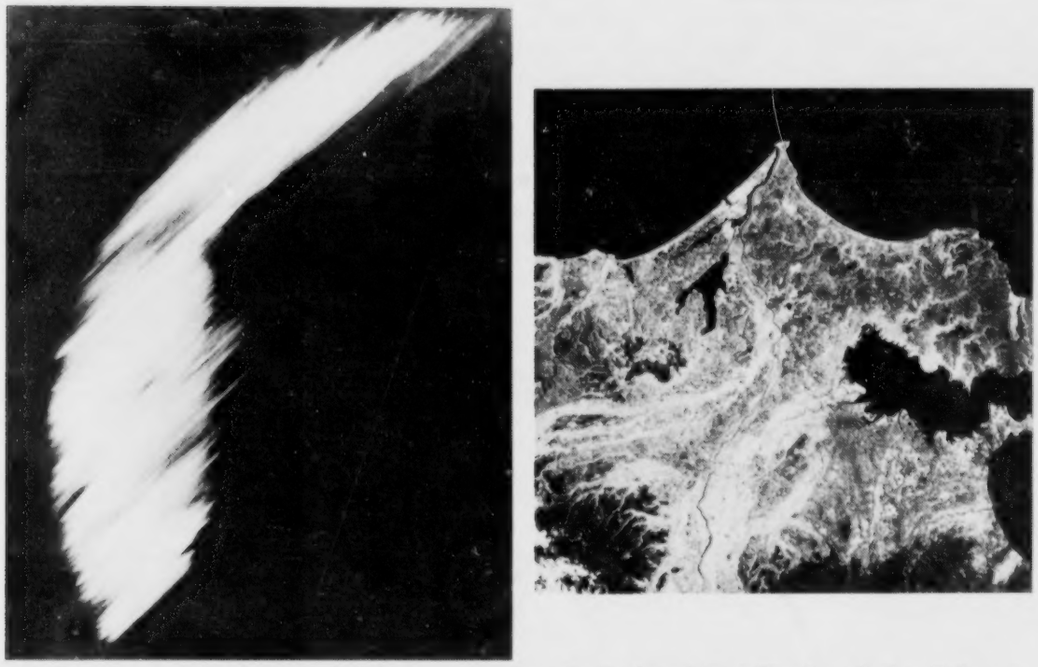
However, some countries, particularly those whose territories lie along the equator, have claimed that they should have special access or a reserved right to the geostationary orbit. Others argue that any type of reservation or claim for geostationary orbit would amount to an appropriation of outer space, which is prohibited under the Outer Space Treaty.

Access to space benefits

A new item on the Outer Space Committee's agenda relates to the development of a legal regime that embodies and promotes the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit of all States, particularly the developing countries, as stipulated in article 1 of the Outer Space Treaty.

A draft set of legal principles to ensure the widest utilization of space technology has been proposed by those countries for discussion next year. ■

Remote Sensing: Blasting Off to Planet Earth



The first space photo of the Earth *(left)* was taken from the Explorer VI satellite, launched on 7 August 1959. A recent Landsat satellite photo *(right)* of Tokyo Harbour is the result of sophisticated remote sensors, which provide crisp images and valuable data on worldwide vegetation, water and mineral resources.

When in 1991 the United States Army wanted to evaluate the toll its training and maneuvers may be taking on the environment, it did not go into the field; instead, it headed for outer space.

Using images taken from satellites orbiting the Earth, the American military was able to take a wide-ranging inventory of endangered species' habitats, determine the extent of vegetation destroyed by tank exercises at its bases in Germany, and assess the potential environmental damage caused by missile testing.

The technology which makes this detailed information available is remote sensing, a 20-year-old science that employs high-tech, space-borne sensors to gather data on the Earth's environment.

"Efforts to protect the environment and to protect people from the harmful effects of climatic change may be of unprecedented importance in the coming decades", according to Nandasiri Jasentuliyana, Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs. "Satellites are a unique tool for gathering global climatic and environmental data."

The potential contribution of satellite remote sensing—which has already led to discoveries of the expanding hole in the ozone layer and the rate and magnitude of tropical deforestation—is central to International Space Year (ISY), which seeks to highlight the unique perspective that outer space activities provide on the fragility and complexity of our planet.

Remote sensing equipment, such as photographic cameras, microwave and thermal scanners, and imaging radar systems, enable satellites to garner data—on vegetation, soil, rocks, drainage patterns, geologic structures and the atmosphere—which cannot be acquired through aircraft and ground observation.

A major advantage in the use of these satellites is their ability to provide rapid, systematic coverage of large areas of the globe, which makes them ideal for monitoring changing environmental phenomenon.

The changing international situation "offers new opportunities for peace, cooperation and development, but also poses major new challenges and new risks of conflict and instability", said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a message to the World Space Congress in Washington, D. C. on 31 August. "Considering the potential of space technology, the international space community ... will have an important role to play in helping the family of nations meet these new challenges."

Ground-breaking uses

Satellites can be used not only for monitoring the environment, but also for election supervision, crisis and cease-fire monitoring, refugee resettlement and redevelopment programmes, he said. For example, a ground-breaking programme undertaken by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees uses remote sensing images to pinpoint fertile farmlands available for the resettlement of Cambodian refugees from Thai border camps.

In tropical countries, remote sensing satellite data is used to predict the timing and location of mosquito outbreaks—the key to controlling malaria epidemics. By identifying in advance breeding habitats and the timing of mosquito population increases, remote sensing technologies enable these breeding areas to be treated before the larvae turn into disease carriers.

Remote sensing data is also in the forefront of research undertaken by the Ukraine into the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power station catastrophe, as well as in the global effort to study and assess the impact of the oil-well fires in Kuwait, set after the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Sophisticated sensors

The first satellite images of the Earth's weather patterns and surface features were returned in 1960 by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) meteorological satellite.

Remote sensing satellites, distinguished from meteorological satellites by their ability to provide images of fine detail, made their debut a decade later with the launching by the United States of a satellite series known as Landsat.

In the mid-1980s, France launched its first remote sensing satellite—known as Spot—which produces images of even greater detail than Landsat.

> "Man must rise above the Earth—to the top of the atmosphere and beyond—for only thus will he fully understand the world in which he lives."
>
> —Greek philosopher Socrates, 5th century B.C.

The newest remote sensing techniques employ microwave sensors that can "see" the earth continuously regardless of cloud cover or darkness.

Another major development has been the integration of remote sensing data into computerized geographic information systems (GIS).

GIS computer programmes, available for use in personal computers, are based on a geographical grid in which various types of geographic data from remote sensing and other sources can be stored.

A GIS programme for estimating agricultural production, for example, includes data on soils, weather, historical agricultural statistics, cropping intensity and a vegetative index derived from satellite remote sensing. The various data can be printed or displayed as images or maps.

There are currently several geostationary satellites orbiting the equator which provide global data on cloud cover and cloud temperatures on a near-continuous basis. In the low polar orbits, a number of remote sensing satellites, including Landsat, NOAA and Spot, collect data using visible and infrared sensors.

In addition, there are research satellites which provide information on other parameters, such as solar radiation, sea-surface temperature, ocean chlorophyll, snow cover, sea ice extent, ozone and stratospheric dust.

Using the different earth-observing satellites, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) has pioneered the development of remote sensing techniques for surveying crops, providing early warning of adverse weather and natural disasters, and other applications in fisheries, forestry, rangelands and agriculture.

The FAO Remote Sensing Centre, established in 1980 on the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, provides a wide range of remote sensing information and services for managing and monitoring renewable natural resources.

An automated system—the ARTEMIS (Africa Real-Time Environmental Monitoring using Imaging Satellites)—established by FAO in 1988, monitors vegetation and precipitation using hourly and daily data from satellites covering Africa and Asia.

Maps, documents and other data generated by ARTEMIS satellites are transmitted via the Direct Information Access Network for

Africa (DIANA), a new high-speed, two-way telecommunications satellite system linking FAO's Remote Sensing Centre in Rome with three stations in Africa: Accra, Ghana; Nairobi, Kenya; and Harare, Zimbabwe.

FAO, together with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), has also helped to develop a satellite monitoring programme for African rangelands, particularly in Kenya and Senegal.

Combining satellite data showing vegetation coverage with aircraft surveys of cattle, sheep, goats and the shifting settlements of nomadic herders, the agencies have designed projects to protect the rangeland while respecting traditional ways of life.

Similar "Missions to Planet Earth" are increasingly emphasized in the long-term plans of national space programmes. A review of projects by Canada, the United States and some European countries revealed that the majority of space-based initiatives now focus on global change and environmental monitoring studies.

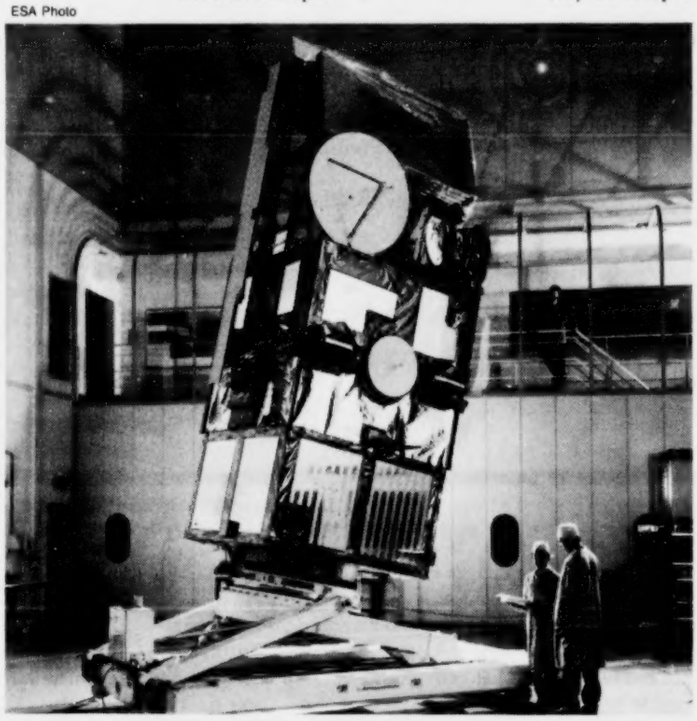
For example, the United States has long-term plans for an Earth Observing System, a series of six satellites scheduled for launch in the late 1990s. Its early missions will focus on global climate change along with an elaborate system to distribute the data they gather.

The European Space Agency (ESA), a cooperative of 13 nations, launched in 1991 a new microwave remote sensing satellite—the Earth Resources Satellite or ERS-1—which can create accurate radar images of the Earth, regardless of cloud, fog or darkness.

ERS-1 will record changes in forest areas, pest invasion of agricultural land, soil erosion and even oil pollution caused by individual ships on the world's oceans.

One major project undertaken by the European Community will use ERS-1 images to evaluate the enormous environmental problems in Eastern Europe.

ESA Photo



The high-tech flight unit of the ERS-1 remote sensing satellite, launched in 1991 by the European Space Agency.

The data will allow researchers to examine and map air pollution, soil acidity and degraded land in the polluted mining areas of northern Czechoslovakia, southwestern Poland, along the Danube River and in eastern Germany—a region known as the Black Triangle.

The Japanese Earth Resources Satellite was launched in 1992 to provide data on land surveys, forestry, agriculture, coastal monitoring and disaster prevention. Other new remote sensing satellites include the former Soviet Union's Almaz satellite, launched in 1991, as well as ocean- and land-observing satellites to be launched over the next few years by Canada, France, Japan, India and the ESA.

A warning sounded

The Earth's atmosphere is an important example of the kind of environmental element that can only be comprehensively studied from the global perspective of outer space.

A warning of the potential impact of human activities on the Earth's environment was sounded when in the 1970s and early 1980s satellite-based remote sensing probes of the atmosphere over Antarctica confirmed the presence of a hole in the ozone layer, a part of the atmosphere which plays a fundamental role in global climate and provides a shield against harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

To explore the changes recorded, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) launched in 1991 the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS) to spearhead a long-term, space-based investigation using a new generation of remote sensing techniques.

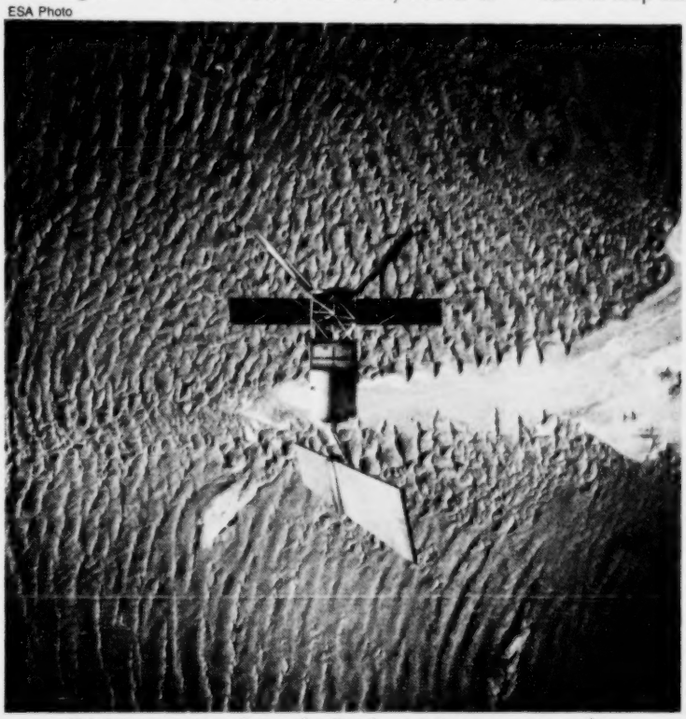
UARS sensors, which provide the most comprehensive data on atmospheric energy, winds and chemical composition ever gathered, already have located disturbing evidence of a new ozone hole opening up over the heavily populated

northern hemisphere. That evidence played a key role in several Governments' decisions to place new limits on the release of man-made, ozone-depleting gases, such as chlorofluorocarbons.

The United States, in cooperation with the Russian Federation, has also undertaken a study known as the Total Ozone Mapping Project.

Other agencies involved in studying global changes from space include the World Meteorological Organization. Its World Weather Watch Programme has a long history of monitoring atmospheric composition and ozone and greenhouse gas concentrations through a number of satellite-based projects.

ESA Photo



ERS-1, operating above the Earth, creates accurate radar images of the planet regardless of cloud, fog or darkness.

International efforts

Cooperative projects have been a cornerstone of successful remote sensing programmes. The International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) coordinates scientific studies aimed at improving knowledge of the global environment and developing models for predicting global change resulting from either human activities or natural forces.

Consisting of core projects that study atmospheric, oceanic, vegetative and land surface processes and their interactions, IGBP requires consistent data on continental and global environmental processes that can be observed by remote sensing.

In the next decade, a number of new satellites equipped with sophisticated new sensors are to be used for IGBP studies, including a series of large polar orbiting platforms to be launched starting in 1997.

Noting that "one of the principal impediments in the use of space data by the international science community has been the inconsistency of data formats and procedures", a UN progress report *(A/AC.105/487)* asserts that: "The challenge for the space agencies and for the IGBP community will be to ensure that the data acquired by different satellites are mutually consistent and can provide an uninterrupted time series to document accurately long-term changes in the state of the atmosphere, ocean and land."

Remote sensing has made particularly important contributions in monitoring, preventing and reversing land degradation, and in planning the sustainable development of rural areas. For example, in areas susceptible to erosion and desertification, remote sensing and geographic information systems provide essential information on soil characteristics, scarce water resources, climate, population density and other factors on which sustainable development depends.

Many countries, industrialized and developing alike, rely on remote sensing surveys of agricultural crops, rangelands and pastures to warn of crop failures, impending food shortages and famines.

Canada, for example, uses data gathered by NOAA meteorological satellites to monitor wheat crops throughout the growing season.

Similarly, in India where droughts are a major threat to the delicate balance of food self-sufficiency, satellite remote sensing data provides weekly, up-to-date information on agricultural conditions throughout the country.

Egypt, which is 95 per cent desert, uses satellite data to map sand dunes and identify places where they are encroaching on agricultural land. Using Landsat images from different dates, the direction and speed of dune movement can be assessed in order to plan wind breaks or other structures to prevent or reduce the destruction of cropland.

Deforestation is depicted dramatically through satellite imagery by which remote sensing experts can easily spot roads, burnt areas and highly overgrazed and eroded land. Efforts to protect and manage

forests—one of the Earth's most valuable and over-exploited resources—have included regional remote sensing surveys, which have covered more than 15 million square kilometres of tropical forests in Southeast Asia, Africa and Central and South America.

The advent of sophisticated radar imaging techniques has enabled remote sensing satellites to distinguish and map different types of forests, check timber licences and monitor brush fires, such as in Australia where forests may burn out of control for as long as a month.

Prospecting from space

Many countries are also productively using remote sensing for mineral prospecting. When satellite images first became available, a surprising discovery was the abundance of long linear features not visible either from the ground or in aerial photographs.

While still not fully understood, it has been found that these features are often related to mineral concentrations. Satellite images also reveal subtle colour patterns in soils or vegetation that sometimes indicate deposits of valuable minerals.

Research is also being done on the use of infrared scanning to observe the thermal properties of soils and rocks, as related to their mineral characteristics.

The analysis of certain linear features in remote sensing images has also contributed to groundwater development.

As part of its programme for improving village water supplies, India has undertaken a major remote sensing project for mapping areas where groundwater is likely to be accessible.

Using maps of groundwater potential, villages with water supply problems have improved the success rate of well digging from 45 to 90 per cent.

Earth Science from Space

Thirteen different earth science projects associated with International Space Year are using space technologies to assess such environmental issues as ozone depletion, deforestation, disaster prevention and global warming:

♦ **The Enhanced Greenhouse Effect Detection Project,** led by the United States' NASA, will use space data to determine how the growing concentration of "greenhouse" gases in the atmosphere may raise the Earth's temperature.

♦ **The Polar Stratospheric Ozone Project,** jointly led by NASA and Germany, aims to improve predictions of the effects of natural and man-made gas emissions on the ozone layer by analysing data from space observation and ground-based balloon and aircraft flights.

♦ **The Global Consequences of Land Cover Change Project,** headed by Australia, France and the former Soviet Union, seeks to use space measurements to predict the global consequences of changes in land cover in selected regions of the world and the impact of such changes.

♦ **The World Forest Watch Project,** jointly led by Brazil and the European Community, is using remote sensing to study tropical and temperate forests worldwide, including a global survey of forest fires. Its major goal is to determine the rate of deforestation in Brazilian Amazonia.

♦ The objective of **the Polar Ice Extent Project,** led by the ESA and Japan, is to provide space-borne data on seasonal changes in the Arctic and Antarctic sea ice extent and large scale ice motion at the poles.

♦ Canada and the European Community are leading **the Productivity of Global Oceans Project** to generate and distribute an archive of maps showing, for example, the distribution of phytoplankton—the microscopic, drifting organisms that consume carbon as part of a cycle which influences the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

♦ **The Ocean Variability and Climate Project,** headed by the ESA, seeks to improve understanding of the climatic impact of oceanic phenomena using various satellite data.

♦ **The Sea Surface Temperature Project,** led by Japan and the United Kingdom, demonstrates fisheries, weather forecasting, climate monitoring and other applications for satellite measurements of sea surface temperatures.

♦ The International Astronautical Federation, through **the Space and Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Relief Project,** seeks to use meteorological, communications, remote sensing and other satellites in orbit to warn of disasters and help in relief efforts.

♦ **The Global Satellite Image Mapping Project,** led by the Austrian Space Agency, is to produce high-resolution maps of and data on the solid Earth for scientific and educational purposes.

♦ **The *Global Change Encyclopedia* Project,** headed by Canada, is to develop an electronic tool consisting of computer data files for monitoring environmental phenomena.

♦ Austria is preparing a ***Global Change Atlas,*** which will map satellite and other data on global environmental change.

♦ The United Kingdom and Germany are heading **the Global Change Video Project,** which will develop photo-realistic images of satellite data to illustrate how the land surface of the earth has changed over the last two decades.

Preventing disasters

With the world spending some $20 million a day on reconstruction, rehabilitation and emergency supplies following natural catastrophes, space technologies have an important role to play in their prevention, prediction and early warning.

"Satellites are well positioned to be on the watch for disasters", said Dr. Louis Walter, a Goddard Space Flight Center senior scientist and head of an ISY project on space and disaster prevention, preparedness and relief.

He recently told ISY organizers: "They can see volcanic ground swelling and thermal build-up. They can predict where landslides might occur. They can watch hurricanes and storm surges brewing. They can even predict insect infestations based on rainfall patterns."

Satellites are already used to conduct search and rescue missions at sea and to warn of storms, drought, locust infestations, floods and landslides. But they are capable of much more. Experiments are being conducted to determine if they can be used also for predicting earthquakes and forecasting volcanic eruptions.

Remote sensing images make it possible to map the vulnerability of particular areas, such as the location of houses relative to earthquake zones, flood plains and areas prone to landslides.

In the Andes region of Colombia, for example, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Geological Applications of Remote Sensing Programme is carrying out a pilot study to develop new methods for mapping and monitoring landslides, using data from the new ERS-1.

In Bangladesh—one of the most disaster-prone countries of the world, where about 110 million people experience the havoc of natural disaster each year—the Government plans to use Spot imagery to organize a long-term flood control plan. Experts in the Philippines are using remote sensing data to map earthquake zones and monitor volcanoes.

Satellite-based communications, particularly mobile systems, are used in disaster areas, where normal ground-based communication links are very often wiped out. The systems can be transported to the relief area in order to transmit speedily relief requirements and provide medical advice to undertrained or over-worked personnel on site.

As a complement to remote sensing technology, mobile satellite communications systems also have the capability to improve dramatically risk assessment, disaster preparedness and early warning and post-disaster relief operations, especially in areas previously considered inaccessible because of their terrain, location, weather or demography.

In addition, space-based communications technology has "dramatically increased global awareness of both natural and other types of disasters", Adigun Abiodun, UN Expert on Space Applications, asserts.

Through satellite television, for example, the world watched as the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident, the 1991 Bay of Bengal typhoon and the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo unfolded before its eyes.

Developing countries lag

The use of satellite remote sensing data is particularly limited in developing countries where it is needed most.

One problem is the lack of regular coverage by remote sensing satellites in some areas, particularly in Africa. While some 18 countries covering most of the world have ground stations to receive data directly from Landsat, Spot and other satellites, most of Africa is not covered by any of those stations.

But an even greater constraint "is the paucity of both technical and financial resources", asserted Professor V.R. Rao, Head of the Indian Space Research Organization.

He added: "International cooperation in the field of space needs to be responsive to the needs of all countries, particularly developing countries, if the real impact and benefits of such international cooperation is to be realized."

To empower developing countries to apply space technologies, including remote sensing and satellite meteorology, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, through its Programme on Space Applications, had developed a new educational initiative.

But to profit from these technologies, developing countries must have the scientific and administrative personnel capable of using space-borne resources. The Programme is promoting advanced education in developing countries as the first step.

Following several UN-organized workshops between 1985 and 1989, the General Assembly on 11 December 1990 announced its support for recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which called for an "international effort to establish regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national/regional educational institutions in the developing countries".

The in-depth training will take place in two steps. First, educators, application scientists and researchers would receive intensive education at the proposed centres for nine months. Year-long follow-up programmes for graduates would then follow.

Plans call for establishing centres in four regions: Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and the Middle East. ■

Space exploration: From competition to cooperation

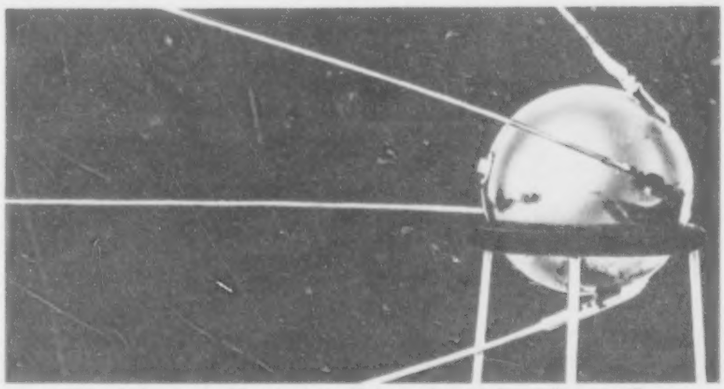
When the celebrated Sputnik I satellite entered orbit on 4 October 1957, the "space race" took off, and for the next few decades, extra-terrestrial exploration benefitted from nationalistic and scientific competition between the two major space powers—the former Soviet Union and the United States.

Their accomplishments were many. In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space. He made one orbit of the Earth in the spaceship Vostok I.

The United States Apollo astronauts became the first men on the moon on 20 July 1969. Ten more took the lunar journey over the next 13 years, culminating in the longest Moon walk ever in 1972 on the vast plain bordering the Sea of Serenity.

During three highly-productive decades, space age spin-off technologies—from velcro to computers to satellite communication—have been translated into successful commercial products.

But shrinking space budgets, changing political priorities and the end of the cold war have gradually shifted the emphasis of national space programmes to unmanned expeditions. Cooperation, not competition, typifies today's multinational efforts. Amid a growing number of national space programmes in Asia and Europe, the United States and the Russian Federation remain key players, along with the nations of the European Space Agency (ESA).



UPI/Bettmann

One of the first official photos of the Soviet Sputnik I satellite, taken prior to its historic launching on 4 October 1957.

TASS/Sovfoto

Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became in 1961 the first human to fly in space.

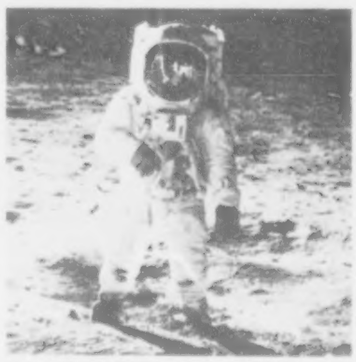
Man-made explorers

One of the oldest operational unmanned explorers is Pioneer 10, launched by the United States in 1972. It was the first space probe to reach the planet Jupiter.

Pioneer 10 marked its twentieth anniversary this year at a distance of more than 5 billion miles from Earth, making it the most distant man-made object in space. It continues to send home scientific data from 8 of its 12 instruments and is expected to go beyond the solar system sometime before the year 2000.

The Solar System Exploration Division of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has undertaken numerous collaborative planetary exploration projects using spacecraft launched by its space shuttles—reusable winged craft which are launched like a conventional rocket, but which glide back to Earth like an airplane.

The most exhaustive geological study ever undertaken of Venus—the planet most like Earth in the solar system—lifted off on 4 May 1989, when NASA's space shuttle Atlantis launched the Magellan spacecraft to map completely the Venusian surface with imaging radar. Well into its second, complete 243-day elliptical orbit, Magellan has succeeded in mapping



UN Photo 111676

The United States Apollo programme put the first men on the Moon in 1969.

95 per cent of that planet, verifying that it has a surface of volcanic rock and lava flows.

In a cooperative mission, the ESA-built Ulysses spacecraft was launched by the NASA space shuttle Discovery on 6 October 1990 on a five-year journey to explore the Sun's environment and its little-known polar regions. It headed first towards Jupiter, where in February 1992 that planet's powerful gravity boomeranged Ulysses into a trajectory for near-polar orbit around the Sun in June 1994.

The Yohkoh solar-observing spacecraft—launched in August 1991 from Japan's Kagoshima Space Center and incorporating the work of Japanese, American and British scientists—is also gathering valuable information about the Sun.

The red planet Mars continues to spark the imagination of Earth's inhabitants after three decades of unmanned exploration. NASA and its Russian counterpart, along with scientists from Austria, France, Germany and the United Kingdom, are developing Mars exploration projects, beginning with NASA's two-year Mars observer mission planned for launch in 1993.

Jupiter is the focus of an international team of scientists from Germany, the United States, Sweden, France and the United Kingdom, which launched on 18 October 1992 the Galileo spacecraft.

On its six-year journey to investigate the Jovian system, Galileo will also undertake fly-by studies of asteroids and other planets.

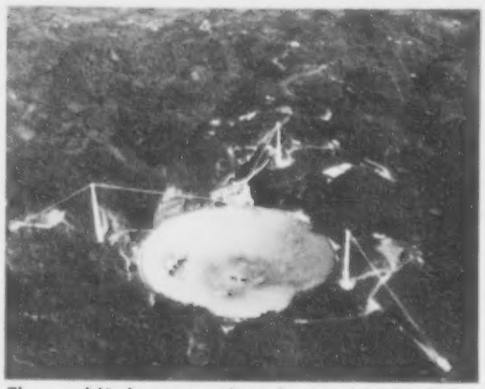
Sophisticated telescopes

A unique solar observation window opened in 1990, when the Hubble space telescope was launched by the space shuttle Discovery to become the most powerful observatory in space.

Since its launching, Hubble has observed a cosmic dust cloud called the Orion nebula and a giant storm on Venus. The 43-foot-long observatory, developed over more than two decades by NASA in collaboration with ESA, was also expected to scan distant stars and galaxies with a clarity 10 times greater than ever before. However, a design flaw in the main mirror has blurred the telescope's vision, necessitating a space-shuttle repair mission sometime in the next few years.

Another ambitious NASA programme was launched on 12 October 1992, when the world's largest radio telescope —a 1,000-foot-wide aluminum bowl with movable antennae 50-stories high—was switched on in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, to Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI).

During the 10-year, $100-million SETI project, the instrument, along with another massive telescope in California, will measure microwave radio signals from targeted stars in a window of the sound-wave spectrum where scientists expect there will be the least background noise.



The world's largest radio telescope, in the hills of Arecibo, Puerto Rico, searches the skies for signs of extraterrestrial life.

Space stations

The foremost extraterrestrial, manned mission is the Russian Federation's Mir space station—following one United States and five earlier Soviet space stations ever built and launched—which was put into extraterrestrial operation in 1986 by the former Soviet Union.

Fully equipped for people to live and work in space over extended periods, Mir has housed cosmonauts for up to 10 months at a time.

Like satellites, Mir is taking the path of internationalization. Russian space authorities are negotiating with ESA, Israel, Chile and South Korea for future missions to conduct scientific experiments aboard the station. Japan, Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom have already sent astronauts to Mir on similar missions during the past two years.

Space Station Freedom—a joint American, Canadian, Japanese and ESA venture—is currently being designed for observation, commercial research and manufacturing. It will also undertake micro-gravity research and manned space explorations, first to the Moon and Mars.

Although Freedom has recently faced budget cuts, a preliminary launch date is set for March 1994. ■

A view of Maat Mons, the tallest volcano on Venus, from the Magellan spacecraft.

A Look Back

Outer Space Achievements: A Chronology

1957

• Sputnik I, the first artificial Earth satellite, is launched by the USSR on 4 October, marking the beginning of the space age.

1958

• The General Assembly establishes an ad hoc body, which in 1959 becomes the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, serving as a focal point for international cooperation.

1960

• The first satellite images of the Earth's weather patterns and surface features are returned by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) meteorological satellite.

1961

• Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet cosmonaut, becomes the first human in space. He made one orbit of the Earth in spaceship Vostok I during a flight which lasted 108 minutes from lift-off to touchdown.

1967

• The 1966 Treaty on Principles Governing Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (the Outer Space Treaty) enters into force. It provides that nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction are not to be placed in orbit around the Earth or anywhere in outer space.

1968

• UNISPACE I, the first UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, is held in Vienna to examine the practical benefits of space activities and the participatory opportunities available to non-space Powers.
• The 1967 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space enters into force, requiring States to take all possible steps to rescue and assist an astronaut in case of an accident, distress, emergency or unintended landing.

1969

• The United States Apollo programme makes the first manned landing on the moon on 20 July. The astronauts spent 21 hours on the surface of the moon returning to earth eight days after launch with samples of moon rocks and soil.

1972

• The 1971 Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects enters into force, establishing a standard liability by the launching State for space related activities that cause damage on the Earth's surface.
• The United States launches Landsat-I, the first satellite intended for systematic and repetitive global observations of natural resources and the surface environment, and Pioneer 10, the first space probe to reach the planet Jupiter.

1976

• The 1974 Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects enters into force. It provides that launching States shall maintain registries of space objects and furnish information on each launch for a central UN Register.

1980

• The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) establishes a Remote Sensing Centre to provide a wide range of remote sensing information and services for managing and monitoring renewable natural resources.

1982

• UNISPACE II, the second UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, meets in Vienna to discuss international cooperation in space research , technology and applications. It adopts wide-ranging recommendations to guide future work in this realm.

1984

• The 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (the Moon Treaty), which declares that the Moon and all its natural resources are the "common heritage of mankind", enters into force.

1986

• The General Assembly adopts a set of Principles relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, which defines remote sensing and establishes a foundation for international cooperation in the technology.
• The Soviet Mir space station is put into extraterrestrial operation.

1989

• The General Assembly endorses the proposal to designate 1992 as International Space Year.
• The Magellan spacecraft is launched off of NASA's space shuttle Atlantis, to completely map the Venusian surface with imaging radar.

1990

• NASA launches Hubble space telescope to study distant galaxies, as well as the ESA-built Ulysses spacecraft on a five-year journey to explore the Sun.

1991

• Japan launches the Yohkoh solar-observing spacecraft.
• The ESA launches a new microwave remote sensing satellite—the Earth Resources Satellite (ERS I)—which can create accurate radar images of the Earth, regardless of cloud, fog or darkness.
• NASA launches a remote sensing satellite—the Upper Atmospheric Research Satellite (UARS)—to spearhead a long-term, space-based investigation.

1992

• International Space Year (ISY) constitutes the first year-long, worldwide celebration of humanity's future in the new space age, under the aegis of 29 national space agencies and 10 international organizations, including the UN.
• In addition, the Japanese Earth Resources Satellite (JERS) is launched to provide data on land surveys, forestry, agriculture, coastal monitoring and disaster prevention, and on 12 October, US scientists switch on the world's largest radio telescope to search for evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI).
• On 20 February, MIR cosmonaut Sergei Kiralyov of the CIS breaks the spacewalk record by clocking 36 hours, 25 minutes on seven excursions outside the space station. ■

Chemical weapons convention transmitted to General Assembly

Signing to take place in Paris in January 1993

In a major step towards achieving a global ban on chemical weapons, the Conference on Disarmament adopted and transmitted to the General Assembly the text of the 24-article Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

It took that action on 3 September at the end of its annual session, which was held in Geneva in three parts—from 21 January to 27 March, 11 May to 26 June, and 20 July to 3 September.

The approval of the final draft by the Conference signified the conclusion of more than 10 years of negotiations. The General Assembly, after commending the new treaty, will request the UN Secretary-General, as Depositary of the Convention, to open it for signature at a special conference in Paris on 13 January 1993.

The Convention totally prohibits chemical weapons and any activities aimed at or contributing to their use. The ban extends not only to chemical warfare agents as such, but also to the means of delivery.

By the Convention, States parties are obliged to destroy all chemical weapons, including those abandoned, and chemical weapons production facilities. Routine as well as short-notice "challenge" inspections of Government and industrial facilities are to be conducted to verify compliance. Built-in safeguards, including sanctions, deal with situations where basic obligations are not respected.

To implement the Convention, an organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons is to be established at The Hague, Netherlands.

In addition to chemical weapons, the Conference also dealt with: a nuclear test ban; cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction; radiological weapons; a comprehensive programme of disarmament; and transparency in armaments.

In a closing statement, Conference President Michel Servais of Belgium said the 1992 report represented the "art of the possible". While the results in certain areas had been "rather meagre", in other areas, notably chemical weapons, Conference members could have "every reason to be delighted with their achievements".

The Conference on Disarmament is the world's single forum for multilateral disarmament negotiations. It consists of the five nuclear-weapon States—China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States—other militarily significant States, as

UN Photo 159152/H. Arvidsson

Verification is a crucial component of the new treaty. A UN inspector monitors the destruction of chemical weapons in Iraq.

well as neutral and non-aligned countries which form the "Group of 21". Non-members have been invited, upon their request, to participate in its work.

'Unprecedented opportunities'

In his opening message to the Conference, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had stated that the end of the cold war had opened up unprecedented opportunities for the world community to seek a new system of international relations in which the costly burden of arms accumulation is replaced by efforts to ensure the security of all nations at substantially reduced levels of armaments and armed forces.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali, in welcoming on 11 September the Conference's adoption of the draft Convention, said it was the "result of many years of multilateral negotiation" and offered the international community the "long awaited opportunity to eliminate completely a whole category of weapons of mass destruction".

Adolf Ritter von Wagner of Germany, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, said that future States parties were offered a "balanced legal instrument providing clarity on the fundamental obligations" and also "enough subtlety on matters of implementation" so that, with the consent of States parties, the respective provisions might still mature and evolve in the course of future practice.

Ronald Lehman II, Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said the Conference had succeeded this year in completing its "seemingly endless negotiations" to ban chemical weapons. That was a "major achievement towards a safer, more secure world". The United States, he continued, was "committed to destroy its entire chemical weapons stockpile" within the 10-year destruction period specified in the Convention.

Serguei Batsanov of the Russian Federation said that although some of the draft provisions caused "serious problems" to his Government —those relating to the cost of international verification and the definition of specialized equipment— Russia had not blocked the draft's submission to the Assembly.

Sir Michael Weston of the United Kingdom, before the adoption of the text, cited some shortcomings, in particular in the area of verification, time-tables and monitoring of the Convention's implementation. His country considered the draft "the best achievable" in the foreseeable future and had therefore accepted it.

> The new Convention offers the long-awaited opportunity to eliminate a whole category of weapons of mass destruction

According to Gerard Errera of France, the Convention could be considered as the "first genuine universal disarmament treaty". When the will of States existed, the Conference was "in a position to reach ambitious goals", and the rule of consensus had "paved the way of universality", he added.

Hou Zhitong of China said that his country, "as a non-chemical-weapon State and a victim of the scourge of foreign chemical weapons", had always "stood firmly" for the early conclusion of such a convention. Despite some reservations on a number of important issues, China had joined the consensus on the draft.

Other matters

The work of the Conference took on an exceptional character during the current session as priority was given to the chemical weapons draft. In view of that, other subsidiary bodies reduced their workload. Nevertheless, in the light of the conclusion of the chemical weapons negotiations, delegates called for progress in other areas.

There was general agreement that the Conference must immediately begin serious consideration of the question of a nuclear-test ban and moved to re-establish its Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban at the beginning of its 1993 session.

Delegates stressed that in light of recent positive changes in the world, a "fresh look" was needed at the substance of negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States. The international community had also to contribute actively to bilateral measures of nuclear disarmament and arms limitation. The concept of a global monitoring system to detect and identify seismic events—including its overall design—should be reassessed.

Some Eastern European delegations and members of the "Group of 21" supported the convening of a group of experts to identify new types of weapons of mass destruction. Western delegations maintained the view that as no new types of such weapons had been identified since 1948, nor was their existence imminent, the practice followed thus far of making plenary statements and holding informal Conference meetings from time to time was the most appropriate one to deal with this question.

Discussions on transparency in armaments—a new item on the Conference's agenda in accordance with Assembly resolution 46/36—were limited to a preliminary exchange of views and no attempt was made to reach agreement on any of the ideas raised. ■

New Convention: Towards a global ban on chemical weapons

The 24-article Convention, with its three annexes (on chemicals, verification and confidentiality) and a text on the preparatory commission for an Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons—all of which total 184 pages in length—was sent to the General Assembly by the Conference on Disarmament. Following is an overview of some important provisions.

Under **ARTICLE I**, each State party undertakes: never under any circumstances to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons, or transfer them, directly or indirectly, to anyone; to use or engage in any military preparations to use chemical weapons; and to assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited under the convention.

Each State party is obliged to destroy chemical weapons and such production facilities it owns or possessses or that are located in any place under its jurisdiction or control, as well as all chemical weapons it may have abandoned on the territory of another State party. Each State party will use riot control agents as a method of warfare.

ARTICLE II defines "chemical weapons", "toxic chemicals", "precursor", "old" and "abandoned" chemical weapons, "riot control agents", "chemical weapons production facility" and "production capacity".

Under **ARTICLE III**, each State party will submit to the Organization, not later than 30 days after the Convention enters into force, declarations with respect to chemical weapons and their facilities, specifying their precise location and quantity and providing a general plan for their destruction.

ARTICLES IV and **V** contain detailed and rigorous provisions governing the destruction of chemical weapons and their production facilities, including verification. Complete destruction would be required within 10 years. Should a State party, in exceptional cases, for technological, financial, ecological or other reasons not be in a position to do so, the Convention would allow for the possibility of extending that time-frame by up to five more years. Furthermore, in exceptional cases of "compelling need", **ARTICLE V** permits States parties to convert, rather than destroy chemical weapons production facilities, but only under strict conditions preventing possible reconversion and rigorous additional verification measures.

ARTICLE VI, in conjunction with the Verification Annex, sets forth a comprehensive and graduated regime for international monitoring, through declarations and on-site inspections, of "activities not prohibited under the Convention", in particular in the chemical industry.

ARTICLE VII, on national implementation measures, outlines general undertakings and relations between the State party and the organization to be set up under the convention. **ARTICLE VIII** establishes the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons at The Hague, to ensure the implementation of the Convention. The Organization will comprise: a Conference of the States parties composed of all member States, which will be the principal organ; the Executive Council with a membership of 41 States parties; and a Technical Secretariat headed by the Secretary-General.

Procedures for consultative clarification and short-notice "challenge inspections" are set forth, in conjunction with the Verification Annex, in **ARTICLE IX**.

ARTICLE X, on assistance and protection against chemical weapons, provide built-in safeguards of the Convention to protect States parties against the hypothetically continuing risk of being threatened or attacked by chemical weapons. It provides: for the establishment of a voluntary fund for assistance by the conference of States parties; for assistance through the organization in case of the use or threat of use of chemical weapons against a State party; and for immediate emergency assistance directly from other States parties.

ARTICLE XI aims at promoting expanded international trade, technological development and economic cooperation in the chemical sector for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

ARTICLE XII is considered the principal safeguard of the Convention to protect States parties against violations of the basic obligations by other States parties. It provides the means to remedy any situation which contravenes the provisions of the Convention. For example, the organization may require a State party deemed not to be in full compliance with the Convention to take remedial action and, in the event it fails to do so, apply a number of penalties, including sanctions. In cases of particular gravity, the conference of States parties would bring the issue to the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The remaining 12 articles of the Convention deal with its relation to other international agreements, settlement of disputes, amendments, duration of the Convention and withdrawal of a State party, status of the annexes, signature, ratification, accession, entry into force, reservations, depositary and authentic texts.

The Convention, to be of unlimited duration, will enter into force 180 days after the date of the deposit of the 65th instrument of ratification, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature.

Economic and Social Council: May become 'as important as Security Council'

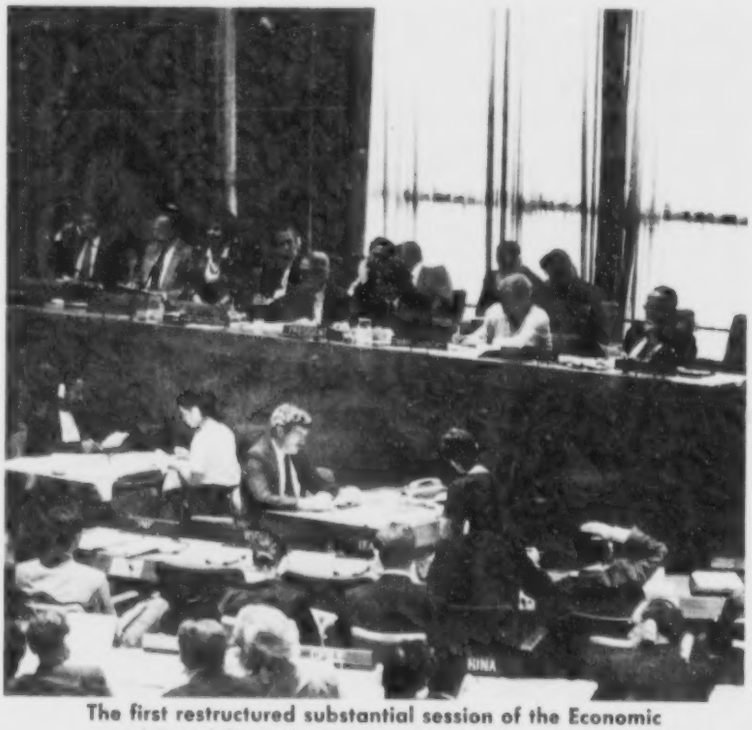
More than 130 resolutions and decisions on human rights, social development, crime, narcotic drugs, the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), women, international economic cooperation, humanitarian aid and other issues were adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first restructured substantive session (29 June-31 July, New York), deemed as one of the most productive in recent years.

The diversity of matters addressed by the Council was interwoven by strong common threads: that poverty is the biggest challenge facing the international community; that peace and security are inextricably linked to economic and social development; and that UN activities must be reshaped to achieve the integrated approach mandated by the interdependence of those issues.

Stressing these important linkages, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said he hoped "the Economic and Social Council will become as active and important an organ as the Security Council, and will become the Council of the twenty-first century".

"The need for a strengthened role for the United Nations has never before been more compelling", said Ji Chaozhu, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development, at the session's conclusion. "Future peace, security and global stability will depend upon the world's collective ability to improve the living standards and economic and social prospects for the majority of men and women throughout the world."

Among the highlights of the five-week meeting—the Council's first unified substantive session (two sessions were previously held each year)—were recommendations for convening a World Summit on Social Development in 1995 and adoption of a draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.



UN Photo 180518

The first restructured substantial session of the Economic and Social Council opened in New York on 29 June.

The Council also recommended that the General Assembly proclaim in 1993 a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Egypt's offer to host the International Conference on Population and Development was accepted. The global meeting will take place in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994.

At a resumed meeting on 18 August, the Council endorsed a text condemning the practice of "ethnic cleansing" and all violations of human rights in the former Yugoslavia, especially in Bosnia, and Herzegovina. The resolution had been adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at an unprecedented special session on 13 and 14 August.

High-level meeting

During a high-level special meeting (6-8 July) held during the session, some 20 Ministers and other senior officials addressed the role of the UN in enhancing international cooperation for development, a theme Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali termed "the most fundamental task of our time".

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said: "All humanity's hopes—for peace and security, for health and prosperity, for justice and opportunity—rest upon sustainable, equitable and dynamic development."

To further an integrated approach, he urged that the Council introduce a "flexible, high-level inter-sessional mechanism", which would enable it to respond in an ongoing and timely way to developments in the economic and social spheres, and provide reports to the Security Council on developments that may threaten international peace and security.

The focus of the UN, he added, should be in the field, "where economic, social and political decisions take effect and where artificial lines between them tend to disappear".

Other speakers during the high-level segment shared a vision of development that was people-centred, equitable and sustainable. They also stressed the need for integrating social goals, including the advancement of women and the protection of vulnerable groups, into adjustment programmes and development strategies.

During the meeting, heads of multilateral institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the UN Conference on Trade and Development, undertook a high-level policy dialogue on international economic cooperation.

AIDS discussion

At a new coordination segment, Council members and heads of UN specialized agencies and other bodies held a dialogue on the difficulties of coordinating UN poverty-eradication efforts and progress at the international level in dealing with the AIDS pandemic.

The AIDS pandemic has created an unprecendented demand for coordinated global, national and community efforts, the Secretary-General reported *(E/1992/67)*.

"AIDS has demonstrated conclusively the close interconnection between the state of the economy and the state of people's health", the Secretary-General reported. "United Nations coordination must reflect this new paradigm in which health status is inextricably linked to development in other sectors."

The Council on 30 July endorsed the World Health Organization's updated global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS, as well as its recommendations on coordinating activities related to the disease and the human immunodeficiency virus which causes AIDS.

Also discussed were the merits of establishing a system-wide poverty-eradication strategy and the multidimensional nature of the problems surrounding poverty. The need to mitigate the harsh social consequences of structural adjustment programmes, as well as the primacy of treating the social roots of poverty—illiteracy, poor health and subordination of women—were emphasized.

> A world summit for social development has the potential to build a network of communications where few bridges exist today

During a three-day operational activities for development segment, Council members stressed that greater coordination at the Headquarters level and a more effective division of labour in the UN system were required for field action to be effective.

Widely discussed was the Nordic countries' proposal for the establishment of a body, functioning as an international development council, to supply policy guidance to the UN system. A revitalized Economic and Social Council was considered by many as the body which should perform that role.

The Council also discussed, but did not act on, post-UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) institutional arrangements. Substantive questions on the Conference's follow-up are to be discussed by the Assembly.

Social Development

A world summit for social development had the "potential to build a network of communications where few bridges or roads exist today", Mr. Boutros-Ghali told the Council, which subsequently recommended that the summit be convened in 1995.

Special Representative Juan Somavia of Chile recommended *(E/1992/80)* that the summit address a limited number of concisely defined core issues related to the broad concept of social development, including: gender discrimination; adequate food and housing; improved health care and education; problems of vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, children and the disabled; population policies and consumption patterns to alleviate pressure on scant resources; the AIDS pandemic; and implications of migration.

Possible outcomes would include a political statement "underscoring the need to balance economic efficiency and social efficiency through growth-oriented sustainable development policies based on social equity" and a plan of action to ensure the satisfaction of basic needs and the improvement of the quality of life of people in all countries and societies.

The human dimension

Another aspect of the human dimension of development will be dealt with at the International Conference on Population and Development which the Council decided to hold in September 1994. Its themes will be population, sustainable

Education at all levels is crucial to both social and economic development.

economic growth and sustainable development.

In other texts on social issues, the Council:

♦ Decided that a working group of the Commission on the Status of Women should further develop a draft declaration on violence against women;

♦ Called upon the Preparatory Committee for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights to take into account discrimination against women in preparing the Conference agenda;

♦ Adopted an omnibus resolution on operational activities and coordination in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, designed to serve as a blueprint for the future activities of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;

♦ Asked the Secretary-General to continue analysing the impact of organized criminal activities on society.

♦ Recommended that the Assembly continue the operation of the Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992) in the period beyond the Decade, renaming it the UN Voluntary Fund on Disability;

♦ Asked the Assembly to proclaim an International Day of Cooperatives, to be observed on the first Saturday in July 1995, marking the centenary of the International Cooperative Alliance;

♦ Took note of an initiative of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to examine the possibility of declaring 1995—the fiftieth anniversary of UNESCO—the UN Year for Tolerance, and prepare a declaration for adoption on that occasion.

Human rights

Among the 50 texts on human rights was a nine-article draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, which was recommended for Assembly adoption. States will be called on to "protect the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities".

The declaration, formulated by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session, also calls, among other provisions, for minority participation in the country's economic progress and development.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to submit a draft Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to be launched in 1993, taking into account the elements of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade that have not been completed. Special attention was to be paid to the situation of migrant workers and their families.

In other action, the Council:

♦ Asked the Assembly to adopt a draft Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;

♦ Endorsed continued sanctions on South Africa; invited the Special Rapporteur to update the list of banks, transnational corporations and other organizations assisting that regime, and asked South Africa to report annually on measures taken to implement recommendations related to trade union rights.

♦ Demanded the immediate release of all political prisoners, among them women and children, in South Africa and an immediate halt to Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory.

♦ Endorsed preparation of a study on the integration of elderly women into development and invited the Special Rapporteur to update his report on human rights and youth, giving special attention to underdevelopment, unemployment, the right to conscientious objection to military service and children in prison;

♦ Approved the appointment of a special rapporteur to study measures to strengthen respect for the cultural property of indigenous peoples.

♦ Approved appointments of special rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and on the situations of human rights in Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti and Myanmar, as well as an independent expert to review the situation in El Salvador;

♦ Authorized working groups to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to continue work on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms;

♦ Asked for a representative to seek information on human rights issues related to internally displaced

persons, better coordination among bodies dealing with the human rights of disabled persons and a further report on implementation of recommendations on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of prostitution of others;
♦ Appealed strongly to all States to become parties to the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights.

Economic cooperation

Development cooperation can be "an anchor of stability and progress" in a period of great flux and uncertainty, the Secretary-General reported *(E/1992/82)* to the Council. "It should also serve to underpin the emerging new world order with the ideas of equity and development as the basis for enduring peace and security."

He also outlined the principal development objectives for the 1990s: a decisive strengthening of international development cooperation for sustainable growth in the world economy; a development process that is responsive to social needs, seeks the eradication of poverty and hunger, promotes the development of human resources and is environmentally sound; an improvement of the international system of money, finance and trade; a smooth integration of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet States into the world economy; and a special responsibility to deal with Africa and the least developed countries, and humanitarian relief in emergency situations.

Among 11 resolutions and 7 decisions on development and international economic cooperation, the Council endorsed the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women on economic advancement, the need for an adequate flow of external resources to finance the exploration and development of energy resources in developing countries and a review of the mandate and future role of the World Food Council.

The Programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000) was recommended to the Assembly for adoption.

Member States were urged to establish or revitalize operations to implement the UN Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1991-2000). The Economic Commission for Africa was urged to strengthen its relationships with African organizations and UN agencies.

The international community was asked to contribute generously to the Second Phase of the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification. An evaluation report on the proposed Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar was to be funded within existing resources.

Other action

In other action, the Council:
♦ Invited the intensification of African States activities to ensure sustainable development of fishery resources;
♦ Asked for enhanced technical cooperation activities to help countries in attracting foreign investment for privatization programmes;
♦ Urged the UN Development Programme and other UN bodies to intensify efforts to build national capacity for human resource development in developing countries;
♦ Requested the new Transnational Corporations and Management Division to strengthen cooperation in technology transfer and assist developing countries in creating a favourable investment climate, and asked for continued studies on transnational operations in South Africa;
♦ Strongly deplored Israel's practices in the occupied territories and recommended increased assistance to the Palestinian people, given their economic losses as a result of the Persian Gulf crisis;
♦ Appealed for contributions and humanitarian assistance for the rehabilitation of the populations

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Sustainable development calls for renewable, local construction materials.

in areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine affected by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster; and
♦ Called for an integrated approach to UN activities in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Economic and social problems faced by the world today are "unprecedented in their magnitude and severity", said Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali on 6 July. "But unprecedented reasons for optimism exist. There is a shared sense of urgency. There is a growing awareness born of experience about which measures do not work and which measures do work. Social development problems can now be recognized as a universal concern. And there is increasing recognition that deeper international cooperation is both necessary and possible." ■

Human rights of minorities: Modern forms of slavery are 'great scandal'

Slavery, sex tourism and xenophobia were among the broad range of issues addressed by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-fourth session (3-28 August, Geneva). Racial discrimination, the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, economic, social and cultural rights, the administration of justice and other human rights matters were also on the agenda.

As the principal subsidiary of the Commission on Human Rights, the 26-member Subcommission asked that increased attention be paid to issues related to trafficking in children, child labour and prostitution, children in armed conflicts and commercial or exploitative adoptions.

The Subcommission was gravely concerned over sex tourism and requested the World Tourism Organization to discuss ways of preventing that phenomenon. States should take urgent measures to protect minors from exposure to or involvement in child pornography, it said.

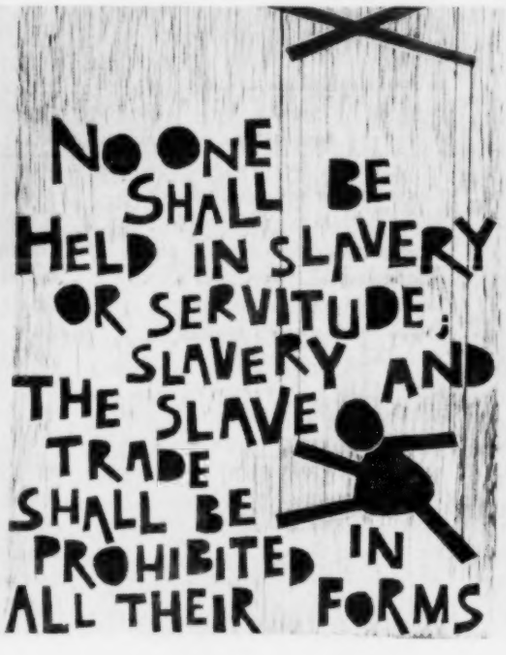
A meeting of experts is to take place in March 1993 on the application of international human rights regulations in cases of youth detention.

The Subcommission recommended that the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights (14-25 June, Vienna) should give priority to the question of discrimination against women. It should also deal with strengthening the protection of human rights during states of emergency, which Governments were invited to limit to situations sufficiently serious and exceptional to justify them.

It invited the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a thematic special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, in light of recent trends in many countries, and supported the launching in 1993 of a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

The Commission was further asked to declare that an independent and impartial judiciary and an independent legal profession were essential prerequisites for protection of human rights. Preparation of a new report on practices which had strengthened or weakened the independence of the judiciary was asked.

On human rights and arms trade, the Subcommission called for an in-depth study on the positive impact on the promotion of human rights of a 10 per cent reduction in world armament expenditures. Member States, it declared, should take into account the potentially negative impact of excessive accumulation of arms upon the full realization of human rights. It urged States to incorporate human rights criteria into all international transactions involving the sale or provision of arms or other military materials to other States or groups involved in armed conflict.



Otavio Roth

Indigenous populations

The Subcommission stressed the importance of the effective participation of indigenous peoples in every aspect of decision-making concerning the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples in 1993. A draft universal declaration was to be further elaborated.

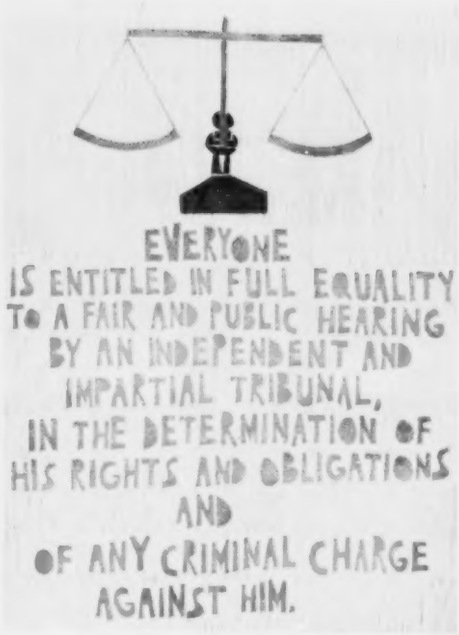
A comprehensive analysis of the laws and traditions of indigenous peoples with respect to the definition, ownership and control of cultural property was asked, to be included in a study of international measures to strengthen respect for their cultural property.

It was recommended that members of the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe participate in court-ordered mediation to seek a peaceful settlement of the situation regarding relocation of their families, and appealed to the United States to ensure that no further relocations take place.

The Subcommission wanted continued consultations on human rights and extreme poverty, appointing a Special Rapporteur to prepare a study on that issue and another to promote the

realization of the right to adequate housing.

International and financial institutions were urged to take greater account of the adverse impact of their policies of structural adjustment on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, on the basis of recommendations contained in the final report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue.



Rights violations

The Subcommission expressed its horror at "ethnic cleansing" operations in the former Yugoslavia in a text transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights, which adopted its own resolution at a special session on 13 and 14 August. Both bodies condemned such policies, particularly affecting the Muslim population in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Alarmed by the number of refugees who had left Somalia since January 1991 and by the fate of displaced and homeless persons there, the Subcommission called upon all parties involved in that conflict to end those serious human rights violations.

Regarding restoration of democracy in Peru, the Subcommission expressed its "deepest revulsion and indignation" at the criminal activities of the terrorist groups Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) and Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru.

The Subcommission also condemned the continuing grave violations of human rights in Iran and the use of violence and the deterioration of human rights in Haiti, and expressed deep concern over the persistence of serious violations in Guatemala and at reports of continuing widespread violations in East Timor.

It strongly condemned the perpetrators of the violence that continued to devastate South Africa and denounced the Government for its failure to stop it. It wanted a Special Rapporteur to report on the progress towards democracy, equality and social justice in that country.

Israel was condemned for gross violations of the rules of international law and of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and for establishing settlements in the occupied territories. Papua New Guinea was called on to restore without delay freedom of movement to the inhabitants in Bougainville. The international community was asked to facilitate food and medicinal supplies to the civilian population of Iraq. The initiative to convene an international symposium on human rights in Cambodia was welcomed, as was a reduction in human rights violations in El Salvador.

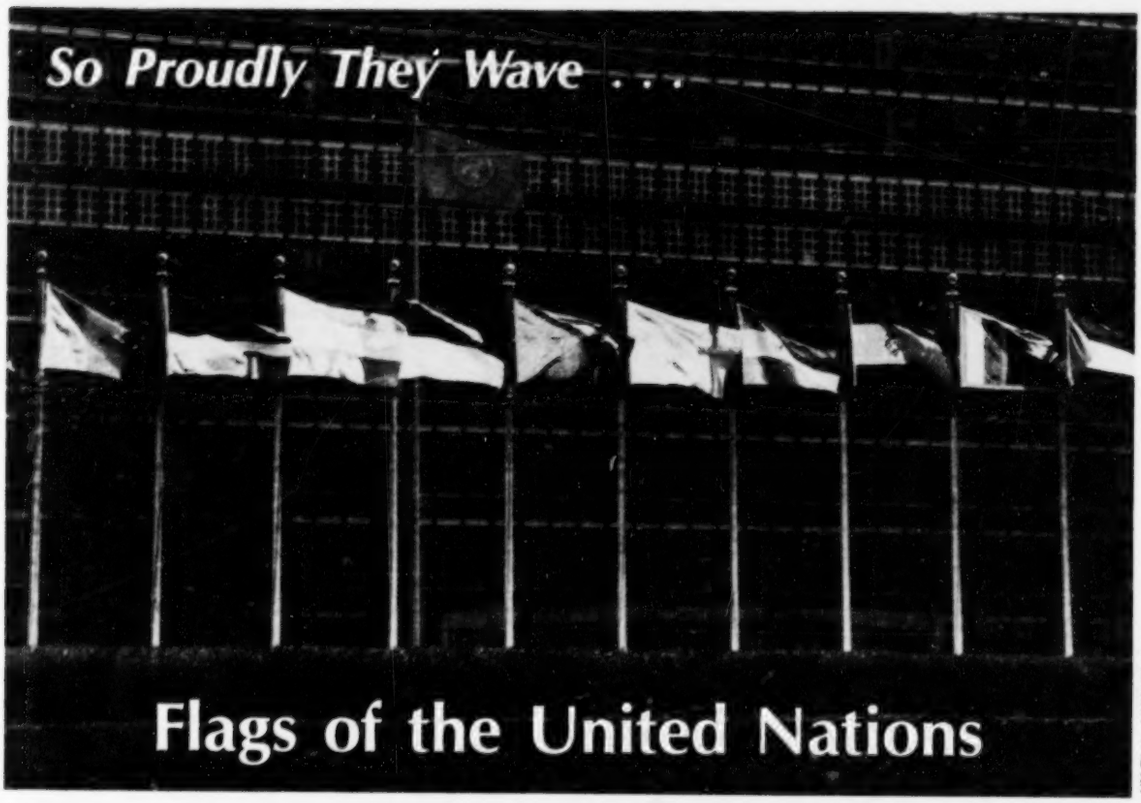
Governments and other entities holding territorial power were urged to ensure respect for the rights of UN staff members and their families. The Subcommission appealed to Governments of countries where UN officials were detained to release them immediately.

The Subcommission asked for new reports on forced convictions, the scale of impunity of violators of human rights, and privatization of prisons. It called for future study of human rights and the environment, national practices regarding the right to a fair trial, the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the interrelationship between human rights and international peace, and discrimination against victims of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Also, it decided to give future attention to a declaration defining gross and large-scale violations of human rights as an international crime, and new human rights standards relating to scientific developments affecting the mental condition or the genetic structure of human beings.

Other meetings

The implementation of human rights conventions was monitored by the Human Rights Committee at its forty-fifth session (13-31 July) and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its forty-first session (3-14 August), both held in Geneva.

The Preparatory Committee for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, at its third session (14-18 September, Geneva), decided to include commemoration of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993) on its draft agenda. However, participants disagreed on the question of whether a list of certain rights and preoccupations—the right to self determination, elimination of foreign occupation, racism, xenophobia and all forms of racial discrimination, including apartheid—should be specified on the agenda. ■



UN Photo 169777/M. Grant

Flags of the United Nations

By Elsa B. Endrst

Projecting an image of unity and hope for the future, 179 flags of UN Member States stand in an undulating row in front of Headquarters in New York City. All the flags are of equal size, except for the 180th—the blue and white flag of the UN—that is slightly larger and stands apart as if to keep a protective watch over the others.

Each day—except on Saturday and Sunday or when the weather is inclement—at approximately 8 a.m., a team of 8 to 11 security officers hoist these colourful national banners. It takes about half an hour to raise all 179 flags. At 4 p.m., the flags are lowered and stored in boxes at the foot of each flag pole. On weekends, unless a meeting takes place, only the UN flag is raised.

While Member States have wide-ranging views on political, social, cultural and other questions, when it comes to flags, they often conform to other nations' designs, patterns, shapes and motifs.

Most national flags are comprised of two or more of seven bold colours: red, blue, green, yellow, orange, black and white. Nations from the same region often choose similar combinations. For example, Latin American countries prefer yellow, blue and red; and French-speaking African countries favour red, green and yellow.

Arduous protocol

The resident UN flag expert is Michael Dulka, External Relations Officer for the UN Library and its former map librarian, responsible for many years for giving tours of the UN Dag Hammarskjold Library's map collection to new staff members, visiting dignitaries and groups of researchers.

"We have files for each national flag of the world and also of flags of sub-national groups", explained Mr. Dulka, an American of Polish descent, who sometimes wryly refers to himself as the UN "Flag Pole".

"We keep official, as well as unofficial commercial information, information which often comes from periodicals and monographs. Even if we do not have an accurate depiction of a flag, we are able to provide an accurate description."

Some of the most common questions asked revolve around protocol. UN flags must comply with a specific code—last updated and published by the Secretary-General's office in 1967—which mandates their size and the order in which they are displayed.

To promote a unified look, all national flags for outdoor display at the UN are 4 by 6 feet, while flags

used for indoor ceremonies are 3 by 5 feet.

Nations are assigned a flag pole, in English alphabetical order, north to south. With only five spaces left to accommodate new flags, further additions will require some relandscaping of the UN garden.

Creating a flag for a new Member State can be an arduous process. First, the Government must provide a sample flag and/or artwork to the UN Protocol Liaison Service, which notifies all concerned departments in the Secretariat, including the Map Collection section and the Security and Safety Service. The Office of General Services is responsible for procuring the actual flag made to UN specifications.

Parade of new flags

With the rapid parade of 20 new Member States that joined the UN in the past year, there often has not been enough time to manufacture a flag with the correct dimensions.

In such instances, the UN temporarily flies a sample of whatever size is provided by the Member State. For several months, San Marino, a 24-square-mile land-locked country in Italy—and the smallest Member State—was represented at UN Headquarters by the largest flag.

Many national flags of the world have totally different proportions than the height-to-width ratio of two to three used by the UN. This can lead to complaints from delegates or officials who notice that their country's flag looks stretched, or otherwise strange to the eye.

The specific shades of colours used can also be a problem, since the UN has a limited selection of colour choices for producing its flags. For example, there are only three kinds of reds available and therefore the red used on a particular UN flag may not be as bright or as intense as the original pennant.

The type of material used in the original national flag can also create difficulties. Most national flags are made of a type of cloth called bunting, which is extremely resilient to the wear and tear of inclement weather and the passage of years. But some countries use other materials not available in the United States. UN flags are reproduced in nylon, Mr. Dulka reported.

UN Photo 180639/J. Isaac

The flag of Georgia is hoisted at the UN for the first time on 31 July 1992.

The challenge of accurately replicating new national flags has created some uneasy moments for the UN. Once, the small graphic provided by a new Member State was accidently photocopied upside-down and produced that way by the manufacturer. The new ambassador immediately noticed the error when he was shown the flag on the day his State was to be admitted. Fortunately, the diagonal stripes of the flag could be temporarily hung upside-down, making the design appear right-side-up when the flag was raised for the first time outside Headquarters.

Vexillology

The study of flags is sometimes called vexillology, a term that originated from an old Saxon or Germanic verb, "fflakken or fleogan", meaning "to fly".

There are many traditions or codes associated with flags, which dictate when they can be used and how they are to be handled. One tradition forbids the burial of a national flag with the dead. Others mandate that these precious national emblems be discarded in particular ways. For example, after being flown for 6 to 12 months, UN flags are considered unfit for display and are carefully cut up and the pieces burned.

One would-be vexillologist has theorized that the purpose of such ethics is to associate with the flag "a sense of everlastingness, of integrity and endurance under even the most trying circumstances".

Since September 1980, the UN Postal Administration has honoured the flags of Member States with a series of impressive postage stamps.

Flags are also honoured with a new look when the ideologies or values of nations change. In December 1989, for example, Romania removed the Communist crest—a garland of wheat surmounted with a red star and enclosing symbols of socialist industry—from the centre of its blue-yellow-red national flag. And for a while, during its political transition, Romanians flew a flag with a hole where those symbols used to be.

By reflecting such transformations, in addition to both the diversity and commonalities among nations, national flags have become high-flying mirrors of history. ■

NEWS ALMANAC

Embargo against Libya

The Security Council on 12 August decided to continue the arms and air embargo imposed against Libya on 15 April because Libya, it said, had not met its requirements for lifting those sanctions. Under Council resolution 748 (1992), adopted on 31 March, the Council decided to impose an air and arms embargo against Libya effective 15 April 1992, unless that country provided a "full and effective response" to requests by France, the United Kingdom and the United States to cooperate in establishing responsibility for the bombings of Pan Am Flight 103 on 21 December 1988 over Scotland, in which 270 persons were killed, and Union de transport aériens (UTA) Flight 772 on 19 September 1989 in Niger, in which 160 persons died.

Protection of Palestinians

Participants in three special UN meetings concerned with Palestinian rights have called for steps to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories. The meetings—all held in Geneva—were the seventh UN European Seminar on the Question of Palestine (27-29 July), the Sixth UN European Regional Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Symposium on the Question of Palestine (24-25 August), and the Ninth UN International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine (26-28 August).

Decolonization Committee

Adoption of an omnibus resolution on 10 Non-Self-Governing Territories was a major action of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples at its 1992 session (5 February-7 August, New York).

Texts on New Caledonia, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Pitcairn and St. Helena were also approved. In addition, the 24-member Committee condemned activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial Territories that impeded implementation of the 1960 Declaration.

Conference on geographic names

The sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (25 August-3 September, New York), in one of 13 resolutions adopted to reduce, simplify and standardize place names around the world, discouraged the unauthorized changing of nationally-recognized geographical names. The Conference also recommended regular publication of a list of country names and a multilingual dictionary in all six UN official languages.

UNIFIL/Lebedeva

The mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been extended by the Security Council for a further six-month period, until 31 January 1993. The 14-year-old UN peace-keeping force, now numbering 5,807, is commanded by Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren of Sweden. In resolution 768 (1992), adopted unanimously on 30 July, the Council reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon.

'Agenda for Peace'

The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, meeting from 17 to 25 August in New York, made a two-day review of the Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace" (*A/47/277*), prepared at the request of the Security Council at its historic summit meeting in January 1992. Committee Chairman Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria commended Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali for his "most timely and courageous" report.

International criminal court

The International Law Commission has asked the General Assembly whether it should formulate a draft statute for an international criminal court. The 34-member body, at its forty-fourth session (4 May-24 July, Geneva), concluded a study requested by the Assembly in 1989. The court's jurisdiction would be limited to crimes of an international character.

New advisory group on UN financing

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali and the Ford Foundation announced on 15 September the formation of an international advisory group on UN financing. To be co-chaired by Paul Volcker, former Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve, and Shijuro Ogata, retired Deputy Governor of the Japan Development Bank, the new group will be provided with logistical, administrative and financial support from the Ford Foundation.

Sea Law Commission

A progress report on work accomplished by the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea since its establishment in 1982 was the focus of the resumed tenth session of the Preparatory Commission (10-21 August, New York). The report outlined issues on which the Preparatory Commission has been able to reach agreement, such as the registration of "pioneer investors" in seabed mining, as well as issues on which agreement has yet to be reached. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea will enter into force one year after 60 States adhere to it; to date, 52 States have done so.

New plan for Africa Recovery

UN activities related to Africa have been consolidated for the first time in an overall inter-agency strategy called the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. Adopted on 16 September by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its resumed thirty-second session (31 August-18 September, New York), the latest blueprint for African action seeks to facilitate the creation of optimal conditions for development on the continent. It is defined by the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, adopted in September 1991 as a follow-up to the five-year UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (1986-1990). The original five-year strategy outlined certain targets—such as growth, food security, human investment and debt reduction—which were not fully met.

Crisis in southern Sudan

Hundreds of thousands of persons in southern Sudan continue to suffer from the ongoing crisis there, with an estimated 1 million or more fleeing their homes, and thousands in urgent need of food and medicine, as a result of heavy military activities. The World Food Programme on 10 September called for assurances that food aid could continue to be delivered to those in need.

World Court news

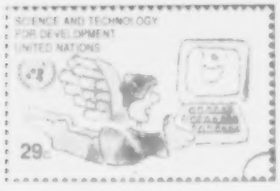
A Chamber of the International Court of Justice delivered on 11 September its judgement regarding a land, island and maritime frontier dispute between El Salvador and Honduras. The Chamber established land boundaries between the two countries in six disputed sectors and determined the legal situation of three islands in the Gulf of Fonseca, as well as the maritime spaces within the Gulf.

The Court removed from its docket a case concerning passage through the Great Belt (Finland against Denmark), after Finland reported in a 3 September letter that the dispute had been settled. Denmark later stated that it had no objection to the discontinuance.

Committee on Rights of Child

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, at its second session (28 September-9 October, Geneva), organized submission of first reports by States parties to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the first instrument aiming to give children's rights the force of international law. At its next session, in January 1993, the Committee is scheduled to examine initial reports of 57 of the 122 States Parties to the Convention, which entered into force on 2 September 1990.

Stamp Corner



The June 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit, embraced clean, environmentally-sound technologies as an important means to achieving sustainable development. The indispensable role of science and technology in development has been further highlighted by the UN Postal Administration (UNPA), which issued on 2 October six commemorative stamps on that theme.

Bearing uncomplicated, almost rudimentary, images which convey the idea that science and technology are accessible to all, the light-hearted stamps were designed by American artist Saul Mandel, creator of the "Jolly Green Giant" character.

A special first-day cancellation—a set of six maximum cards, each featuring one science and technology stamp—and a souvenir card, designed by UNPA staff member Robert Stein, were also issued.

International AIDS Conference

Representatives of the World Health Organization and other international organizations participated in the Eighth International Conference on AIDS, held from 19 through 24 July in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Among the wide-ranging discussions was one centring on investigations as to why some persons testing negative for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) subsequently became victims of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Another major concern of the Conference was the rapid spread of HIV among women through heterosexual transmission. Dr. Michael Merson, Director of the Global Programme on AIDS of the World Health Organization, co-sponsor of the Conference, said the number of women infected with HIV could surpass the number of men with the virus by the year 2000.

In Brief . . .

• The **Annual NGO Conference** (9-11 September, New York), sponsored by the UN Department of Public Information, focussed this year on the origins, growth and impact of regional conflicts, including the humanitarian, environmental and economic consequences of conflict.

• **World Habitat Day**, focussing this year on the theme "Shelter for Sustainable Development", was observed at UN Headquarters on 5 October with the presentation of two sets of awards for achievements, aimed at improving housing conditions throughout the world.

• A **goodwill mission** to the Solomon Islands has been dispatched by Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali following border incidents with Papua New Guinea in which two citizens of the Solomon Islands were killed.

• The UN Environment Programme announced on 3 September the appointment of a Special Envoy in an effort **to save the rhinoceros**—whose population has fallen by 85 per cent worldwide since 1970—from extinction in the wild.

• The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held a follow-up conference to **International Literacy Year 1990** (3-6 August, New York) to examine the demands for literacy skills posed by urban areas and to map out strategies for the decade ahead.

• The **UN International Drug Control Programme** hosted a meeting (26-28 August, Vienna) to review a research project on the socio-economic and political consequences of the production, trade and abuse of narcotic drugs, as part of a series of technical consultations on drug-related issues to be held during the UN Decade against Drug Abuse (1991-2000).

Violence against women

The inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on the Status of Women (31 August-4 September, Vienna) adopted by consensus on 4 September a draft declaration calling on States to prevent, investigate and punish personal or state-sponsored violence against women. The text, headed for adoption in 1993, directs States to ensure that women victims of violence, and where appropriate their children, receive specialized assistance. ■

TV Soaps: Not just for fun

UN Photo

***L.A. Law* star A Martinez *(left)*, movie actress Celeste Holm *(right)*, Sonia Saeed *(second from right)* and other international "soap" stars at UN Headquarters.**

Television soap operas are a popular form of entertainment that can be used successfully to inform the public about serious issues and universal concerns. So concluded a recent seminar at UN Headquarters attended by actors, producers and directors of soap operas from Brazil, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Philippines.

"Soaps", as these daytime melodramas are commonly known, deal with issues of environment, family planning and domestic violence in a fictional format, said Joe Sills of the Department of Public Information, acting as the moderator of the panel discussion. Co-sponsoring the event was Population Communications International (PCI), a non-profit organization that helps developing countries solve population and environmental health problems.

"For years, American soap operas have made great strides in addressing such concerns as AIDS and racial intolerance. Recognizing what an impact this format has on the public, PCI is helping to use soaps to try and change the world", said Lynn Leahey, editor of the magazine *Soap Opera Digest*.

Sonia Saeed, a Pakistani actress who participated in the UN panel, described controversial scenes from drama shows, such as one where a doctor suggests that an overburdened mother of four is committing a form of suicide by having so many children in such a short time. By addressing such themes, soaps bring important messages to their television audience.

—By Elsa B. Endrst

Chronicle BookWatch

Women in Politics and Decision-Making in the Late Twentieth Century: A United Nations Study

Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands
UN Publications, New York, Geneva
123 pp. $30. Sales No. E.91.IV.3 ISBN 92-1-130144-0

Out of a 1991 meeting of experts in Vienna comes this innovative study of the obstacles to the participation of women in political decision-making and what is to be done to overcome them. "With few exceptions", the experts observe, "women are rarely found in the corridors of power".

Especially valuable is an analysis of the economic and social factors that affect the chances of women's high-level political participation. Clearly, action is needed, for, as the experts note, "whether the global target of equality can be achieved by the end of the next millenium, let alone by the end of the current century, is questionable". The book's final chapter suggests steps towards recruiting women to political office and fostering their advancement to leadership positions in the economic, political and social areas.

Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States

UN Office of Legal Affairs, Codification Division
UN Publications, New York, 1992
229 pp. $17.50. Sales No. E.92.V.7 ISBN 92-1-133428-4

Seven years in the making, this extraordinary book embodies the essential objective of the UN—"to maintain international peace and security". It does this by delineating the principles, means and procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. Written in strict conformity with the UN Charter and in consultation with Member States, the Handbook guides the reader through the labyrinth of peace negotiations. The excellent documentation includes a wealth of footnotes, annexes with the UN Charter and the statute and rules of the International Court of Justice, and a rich bibliography. In all, it is a major contribution to the UN Decade of International Law.

The Rights of the Child Bulletin of Human Rights, 91/2

UN Centre for Human Rights, Geneva
United Nations, New York, 1992. 82 pp.

In this special issue of the Bulletin of Human Rights, seven cogent essays analyse the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which came into force on 2 September 1990. The authors, experts on human rights, consider the Convention's history and legal framework, the role of non-governmental organizations, the special challenge to the UN Children's Fund, and the difficulties in aiding children who are as yet "the unreached".

Peace and Conflict Issues After the Cold War

UNESCO Studies on Peace and Conflict
(formerly the UNESCO Yearbook on Peace and Conflict Studies)
UNESCO, Paris, 1992
226 pp. ISBN 92-3-102770-0

Asbjorn Eide, Director of the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights, introduces this first volume in the redesigned UNESCO series by briefly analysing the implications of a new world order, international security and democratization.

In a section on post-cold war issues, other experts explore at length these and other topics such as non-offensive defense and the links between ethnicity, development and democracy. Essays on creating peace culture—"a culture that promotes peaceableness"—make up the volume's middle section, while the last reviews the peace activities of national and international organizations. This timely book deserves the widest audience.

Rethinking the Third World: Contributions Toward a New Conceptualization

Edited by Rosemary E. Galli
Crane Russak, Taylor & Francis, New York, 1992
198 pp. ISBN 0-8448-1712-0

The authors of these five essays start from the premise that contemporary development theory fails "to explain and take seriously the dynamic histories of the peoples of Latin America, Africa and Asia". A student of peasant societies, a political scientist, a sociologist, an economist and a psychologist reconsider development by scrutinizing current theory in the light of rural realities. The result is an insightful book on how to think about the third world.

World Population 1992

UN Department of Economic and Social Development, Population Division
UN Publications, New York, 1992
$5.95. Sales No. E.92.XIII.12

Like a mirror revealing the ever-changing world, a wall chart of population statistics reflects what is happening in each region and country. The new edition of *World Population* predicts an increase from about 5.5 billion people now to nearly 6.2 billion by the year 2000 and 8.5 billion in 2025, with the greatest growth in the poorest areas.

Using this easy-to-study collection of information on birth, death and fertility rates, life expectancy, infant mortality, future population estimates and other data, the reader can glimpse the socio-economic and health conditions in which the people of the world live.

Reviewed by Professor Harold Fruchtbaum
Columbia University, New York

Coming Up . . .

A preview of some important United Nations conferences and events

January-March 1993

New York

18-29 January	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
25-26 January	Consultative Committee on the UN Development Fund for Women, 32nd session
2-3 February	UNICEF—Executive Board, organizational session
2-5 February	Economic and Social Council, organizational session
16-19 February	UNDP—Governing Council, organizational meeting and special session
16-26 February	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space—Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, 30th session
22 March-2 April	Committee on Natural Resources, 1st session
22 March-8 April	Human Rights Committee, 47th session
22 March-8 April	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space—Legal Subcommittee, 32nd session
March-July	Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Geneva

January-March	Conference on Disarmament, first part
1 February-12 March	Commission on Human Rights, 49th session
February	Second Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
15-26 March	UNCTAD—Trade and Development Board, 39th session, second part
22 March-2 April	Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, 4th session

Vienna

18-29 January	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 12th session
8-17 February	Commission for Social Development, 33rd session
17-26 March	Commission on the Status of Women, 37th session
29 March-7 April	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 36th session

Other Locations

15-19 February	INSTRAW—Board of Trustees, 13th session, Santo Domingo
22 March-2 April	Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, 11th session, Kingston

PREAMBLE TO THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WE THE PEOPLES
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DETERMINED

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO
COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO
ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.